



**"CHANGING FACE OF STREETS"**  
**THE EVOLUTION OF STREET CHARACTER WITH**  
**RELATION TO ITS ACTIVITY PATTERN**  
**IN ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO GALLE FORT**

A Dissertation Presented for the Degree of Master of Science at  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in January 2007

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2007

89500

## declaration

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I declare that this dissertation represent my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made and that it has been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university to any other institution for degree, diploma or other qualification.

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### **Topic explanation**

Architecture is an art of manipulating spaces in to a rhythmic orchestration. The way architect arrange the space should be lead our mind to a state of joy to wisdom. Architecture further developed with the influence of science and technology where we perceive intelligent spaces which tend to over powering the laws of nature. During the foremost period; architecture or any other art form was a product of the society and the ultimate goal of them were to fulfill the needs of the society. At the present situation people are more tend to be liberalized and the built environment is also a product of individualistic manner rather than in a holistic approach.

A city is collection of places, various kinds of environment where people live, begin their lives and acquire their basic needs. Places are constructing with combination of streets and squares of the urban environment. The street is one of the major segments of the city for the witness of its evolution. The urban fabric of the street is manifesting the pattern of its growth and the evolution. Especially places which attached to more than 500 years of history show the changing pattern in a more elaborate way.

Space ultimately converts to a place when the life occurs within its paradigm. Place is consisting of three major components such as the concept of the place, the activity and the physical characters as according to the canters theory; the psychology of place. Character of the place or its identity is clearly a synthesis of above three elements. The role of street in the urban context is indispensable and as according to Anderson, V. & Mouden ; "streets are components of urban communication system – the means of moving objects, people



and information from one sector to another"<sup>1</sup>. Character of the street is determined by several factors such as activity, context, user and the symbols and meaning which attached to the street. Street character in such context can be identify by the mean of its architectural attributes of façade, land use pattern, plot division pattern etc. The term 'changing face' is representing the scenario of the evolution of the street character.

### **Criticality of the observation / possible causes**

Most of the cities have been gone through a vibrant evolution pattern. Then architecture of each place or each object combines together in terms of constructing an image for itself. The space in architecture could be categorized into two as interior and exterior. The building façade stimulate like a skin in-between interior and exterior zones. The sense of enclosure felt in an external enclosed space, differ from an interior space. Most of the people think that enclosed space cannot be an architectural space, since space is enclosed here by external masses.



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Architectural space appears to give different kinds of emotional reactions. Some may have kinds of intimation given by its ornaments and decorations, colour and textural pattern which interplay of light and shadow. Thus architectural space is always enriched by a multitude of expressions.

The urban street can be experienced as an architectural space consisting of streets flanked by buildings on either side, entry spaces that overlap with interactions and points of terminations. The street becomes a main artery like main corridor in a building. Urban Street is a built space perceived as a three dimensional canyon, an elongate duct formed by buildings and the ground. Since the urban street is

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson, V. & Mouden [1986], p- 86



channel it has the perspective distortion. The vertical planes of buildings are significant in the articulation of the exterior space in an urban street. Now it is no longer the public urban space between buildings which we used to have until recent past. The individualist desires provoke a continuation of objects in a street rather than a continue fabric. Emergence of monolithic fabric due to the modern movement was significant in the contemporary period. Then every building looks like a same way without giving relevance to its activity. Marcel Proust cited above scenario as; "no more is there a sense of continuity with place, what do we mean then when we say 'loss of place'. Primary loss of place means a loss of identity of a space. This result in a monotonous experience of 'sameness', where every space give the same look at all. "<sup>2</sup>.

Galle was one of the major port cities in ancient Ceylon and it turn in to various regions during the past five centuries. The influence of colonialism was dominated in terms of composing its spatial organization. Fortified Galle fort was handed over its freedom after been perceived more than four hundred years of colonial power. The spatial environment subjected to change during the periods of each region according to their desires and needs. Streetscapes and the buildings which elongated with them were changed, modified and alternate to gain their character to the context.

Galle fort character was drastically changed due to influence of new conservation proposals as well as the commercial demand as a romantic guest house during the last decade. More than forty buildings were taken by foreigners and converted in to different functions. The character of the streets was completely changed due to the change of the user as well as it's the activity.

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<sup>2</sup> Proust, M. [ 1970], p-288



### **Intention of the study**

Streets of the city bring out a specific character to the city those changes frequently due to various factors. Streets evaluate and change continuously. They facilitate many activities within the city. Therefore aim is to research the current situation and to study what has been happened to the inherent qualities or the existing characteristics of spatial environment of Galle Fort. Instead of that outer city of galle has been taken as a comparison study.

This study is based on the streetscapes in the galle fort and its aim to identify the significant the activity as a means of generating the character of place, which can be developed and maintain when erecting new buildings and public spaces, to form a meaning city that would contain a collection of harmonized urban spaces making the city a functionally meaningful and aesthetically delightful place to live in.

### **Scope of the Study**

Every urban street is not earmarked to have buildings with one specific activity other than on special state. Therefore the major overriding activity can be considered as the activity pattern of that particular street. Activities of a street enhance its identity by the supportive activities flocked around and the participation of the general public. Thus it is important to study the environmental qualities that generate by those characteristics which will enable to identify the major activity pattern of a street. Bentley [1985] has defined a set of qualities that should be achieved in urban design, which are also applicable in street design and stand behind the manifestation of character.<sup>3</sup> Bentley further explained as " . . . . a set of qualities that urban design as a posses seeks to achieve. Thus when we talk about good or bad urban design, we are talking about qualitative results. These qualities visual, functional, experiential, environmental – do not fall within easily

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<sup>3</sup> Bentley [1986] p- 47

delineated boundaries; they overlap and commingle"<sup>4</sup> This would be discussed when studying the usage of the street in order to formulate a constant identity and their architectural manifestation which could lead to the character of the urban street.

### **Limitation of the Study**

A variety of activities take place in urban streets. In order to study the formulation of streetscapes and their characters in relation to the activity patterns, the main activity pattern of the street has been taken into consideration. It is not intend to deal with the entire activity pattern such as residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, public processions and others.

The evolution of a certain built environment over the period of time leads to have a series of layers to perceive. Then the physical embody of the space was remain with minimal alterations and variations but usage of it had been changed drastically. Built environment of Galle had been experienced more than five hundred years of history under the various regions of colonials. The evolution of such a built environment provides rich layers to examine the relationship of the usage of the spaces and its evolved characters.

### **Method of Study**

Since the study in intended to examine the streetscapes and their characters it is important to make the reader understand what a streetscape is and how it generates in the urban context. The space, place and the relationships of it's' character would be discussed in the first chapter while it further discussed the relationship of the factors of the component of the place as; the concept, the activity and the physical properties.

Emphasize of the second chapter will focus on the area of the street, how it exist from the history to the present. A detailed explanation of

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<sup>4</sup> Bentley [1986] p- 48

the streets and streetscapes, its existence and the formation of streetscapes, has also been discussed in detail. Activities that take place in urban streets and about the streets that allocated to or that enhances a special activity in each will discussed in general and also focus on Sri Lankan examples. The evolution of the selected case study will discuss on the chapter three while highlighting the important of the relationship between the place and the activity. The selected case studies are located in the Galle fort and the China Garden. The final and fourth chapter will focus on a qualitative discussion of the relationship between the street usage and its expressive character. The discussion will focus on the three dimensional form of the street space as well as the façade study taken as guide line for the study of the evolution pattern of the street character. And finally conclusion brings out the whole spirit of the research.



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**1:1 Space and Perception of Place**

We had an unbreakable relationship with space and our mind since we were born here. Space had defined in different ways when refer to religion, cultural and social paradigms. But the universal accepted meaning of space is "infinite environment out there".

The idea of space is always depend on the nature of the mind. Particular person or group defined their spaces as what they wish to have. By the evidence from the history, there could be several spatial organizations of ancient societies. All of them were culturally accepted and highly established by their religion and sociological believes.

Idea of space is not a strange thing to our life pattern due to the influences of Buddhist philosophies. Not only in Buddhism but also in most of eastern philosophies had clearly defined the idea of the space. Lord Buddha stated about space during his explanation of the originating process of the matter in universe<sup>1</sup>. He further cited that all matters in the universe are consisting of five major elements such as, *aapo* - element of water, *thejo* - element of fire, *patavi* - element of earth, *wayu* - element of air and *awakasha* - absents of all other four elements or the space. It was stated in the text as follows;

Space is the most precious part in the architectural carrier. Architecture can be defined as an art that playing with spaces. Great philosopher Aristotal described space as a container of things as is implies available for occupation according to his scientific manner<sup>2</sup>. Also we cannot sense or perceive architecture without the aid of the space. This phenomenon is further discussed by western philosophers as well.

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<sup>1</sup> patichchasamuppada suththraya sermon of Lord Buddha

<sup>2</sup> Microsoft Encarta 2005

Here Pierre cited about the existence of space and its relationship to the architecture as follows; "Architecture is an art of hollow, it defines both the interior and from exterior, all have two sides. We penetrate it with our body and not only with our minds "<sup>3</sup>

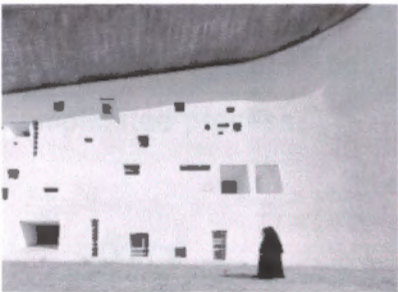


Fig 01 & 02: Architecture as an Art of Space – Notre dam & cave temple of Dambulla

Space and place are not too different from each other. But place is more defined and more accurately based on human mind due to the stronger memorial relationships. Place is a static thing and significant as great as the range of human experience and indentations. Places are more memorable than undefined spaces. Because it is always defined with something else, this can be defined as elements, incidence, person or even an unforgettable experience.



Fig 03: Space and mankind [source: chin: 1973]

<sup>3</sup> Pierre,1990 p –101

Every animal has some kind of place making habitat in his or her living environment. As an example dogs are defining their perimeter by pouring pheromones. Not like other species, humans are more intellectually connected to the places. Place making for their living purpose had become a want than a natural need. At the primitive stage people defined their place according to the physical conditions like climate, topography but later on place making changes into a complicated process.

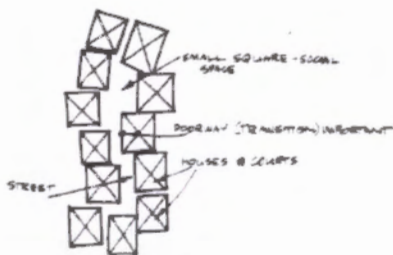


Fig 04: diagrammatic pattern of panjab village

Amos Rapoport further described about the place making in ancient settlements as; "The interplay of social forces relevance with cultural, economic, Political and physical forces involving climate, location and technology will give to an inherent quality of the community and the nature of the community and the nature of the settlement."<sup>4</sup>

Home is the most familiar place in our life-pattern and that's why we have a saying like "*there is no place like home*". Home and house are two different terms that attached to the nature of dwelling. House is only the physical form of the building or the structure of the shell. Home can be defined as a form, which in the relative ground within the appurtenances habitually occupied by any family. House form is highly shaped by the social and cultural forces while it was played with other physical forces since the dawn of the settlements. Ultimate destination

<sup>4</sup> Rapoport 1967 p-18



of creating home has been achieved to facilitate the centre of the world for individual identity, desire or the strength to live as group of human beings.

## 1:2 Place and its Components



Fig 06: components of place  
Activities  
Physical components  
Concepts

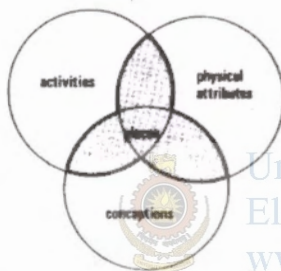


Fig 05: visual metaphor for the nature of places  
[source: Canter 1977]

"Place" is a very common term that has been used in day to day life when one refers to a city, location or town. It generally gives the idea that of means either a location or an area as seen in its physical form. But such terms are "loose and vague" since such a "place" could not have any coherent meaning; people could not appreciate it beyond its physical nature. It can be said that the term "place" means something more than the abstract location. Heidegger further cited few ideas about the place as follows; "to be human is to live in a world that is filled significant places. . . . .to be human is to have and to know

your place"<sup>5</sup>. Place is an entity that reveals in such a way external bonds of mans existence.

Architectural space can be defined as concretization of existential space and this provides either a fresh meaning or emphasis an existing meaning in the "lived in" space. This gives a sense of identity and different spatial quality to the place and therefore it is very important to design buildings with care, as it means very much to human beings.



### **1:3 Characters of the Place and its Identification**

As we all know architecture is a living process of space making which need highly involvement of people. Although place is an essential bearing in the life of human beings had an unbreakable acquaintance with performed and complex aspects of experiences.

The character of a place is highly navigated by activity patterns of people, which happened in that particular place. Qualitative and quantitative aspects of a place contributes to it's character. An architectural space stimulates our senses and we can feel the space through the properties of an enclosure of a space, which leads to form the character of that place. These properties are the governing elements or the forces of character of place. Such as proportion, scale, solid and void ratio, volume, colour, surface etc.

#### **1:3:1 Perception of Character**

Character is a notional description that uses to identify a place, a person or entity. The meaning of character always seems complex and complicated. It always tied-up with the personal perceptions and then forms a universal compound. A special feature or features of a place,

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<sup>5</sup> Heidegger, M.- 1958, p-19



person or entity can be described by the character of it. Therefore the character is a special perceptual feature of those that tends to identify it from the others.



Fig 07: character of Buddhism through architecture and visual art

### 1:3:2 Character of Place

Similarly the character of place or an entity would be; a special feature which differs from the rest of the environment that particular place or entity fits. Unlike a person, the place differs with the complexity of its nature; therefore it is difficult to identify a character of a place than a person's.



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Many architects, planners and urban designers identify and describe the character of a place in different conceptual approaches. Ralph [1976] describes it as; 'objects in their own right places are essentially focuses of intention. Usually having a fixed location and possessing features which persist in an identifiable form. Such places may be defined in terms of communal and personal experience. But in other situations my place is the province or region which I live, or the city or the street or the house that is my home'<sup>6</sup>

The character of a place can be described in relation to the natural entity, the geographical location and its existence in the natural environment or relation to the built form or connections of architecture and society. Most of the religious buildings form their character by the means of the religion itself and the architecture and spatial

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<sup>6</sup> Ralph 1976: p-43

arrangement of it further heighten its character. Wherever religious buildings unified character which strongly attached to its religious concepts and location itself gives a definition later on. Lukerman [1976] identifies the place in relation to geography as follows; "the widespread use of the concept of place as hopeful focus for the chronically divided discipline of geography. Geography concerns with the association of things that give character to particular places. Geography is the knowledge of the world as it exists in places."<sup>7</sup>

Therefore the character of a place depends on its essence, location, landscape, community that lives there its components and the time factor. Kevin Lynch [1976] defines the identity of a place simply as that which provides its individuality or distinction from other places and serves as the basis for its recognitions as a separable entity.<sup>8</sup>



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Fig 08: Two distinctive features of man kind  
[Source: Gunasena, D]

When it refers to the character of a person, the physical appearance of that person is more or less the same to several observers. But the difference in a place is that, when look upon, an outsider may get a difference experience than one directly associate with it. From the outside one will experience a place in a different way, than when he/she is at distance. From the inside one experience a place surround by it and part of it.

<sup>7</sup> Lukerman 1976

<sup>8</sup> Lynch 1976 p - 45



Place would belong to an individual, a group, reserved for some activity or linked with another place. Many architects and designers have used the terms 'sense of place' , 'spirit of place' or 'genius of place'; in trying to identifying a character or perception to a place.

### **1:3:3 Segments of the Character of a Place**

#### **Physical characteristics**

The urban space defines in two senses as social space and built space. The social space is the spatial implications of social institutions and studied by sociologists and geographers. The built space; on the other hand focus on the physical space, its morphology, the way it affects our perceptions, the way it is used and the meaning it can draw out.

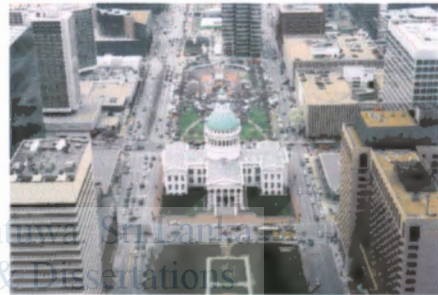
Here the location of a space is also an important factor to be considered, it constitutes legibility, orientation, access, topography etc. and also there are some other physical factors that contribute to identity of a space. Trancik, R. [1986] further defines the components of a successful urban space as<sup>9</sup> ;

- Three dimensional frames define the edges of the space, the degree of enclosure and characteristics of the spatial wall. Transparency, opacity, openings and surface ornaments have significantly impact on the character of a space, as does the relationship of vertical mass to horizontal space. The scale of the wall in relation to human scale and the way this frame meets the ground plane are also major factors in the definition of the three dimensional edges.
- The two dimensional pattern refers to the treatments and articulation of the ground plane and its material, texture and composition.

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<sup>9</sup>Trancik, R 1986 p- 223

- Objects in space are those elements such as sculptures, water features and trees that provide accent of focal point and make the space memorable. Objects can be used to anchor the centre and to give vitality to the space. The most vital elements of all are the human factors that use the space and award as a light.



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Fig 09 & 10: physical features define the open space within an urban entity

The place becomes preferable to people and feel comfortable if that particular place has above mentioned characteristic and the place gets ability to contain people as a better urban space. Then several activities start to evolve when people posses the space and moving around. Then interactions start to blossom to fulfill the true meaning of a place.

### **Social characteristics**

As the modernist saying "form follows the function", there is direct relationship between the physical components of a space and the social entity. Activity forms a clear impact to the articulation of the character of the place.

People remain as one of the main social entity of the space. Behavior of the group of people differs from the place to place. As Rappaport [1983] explains the above scenario as; behavior, language spoken, dress, physical type, occupation, age and sex are different from person to person. These different characteristics matter when defining a space for a certain group of people for themselves.

Concentration or density of people also varies from space to space. When making a place in an urban context, the variation in the number of people in different settings and the time of place become important social element<sup>10</sup>.



Fig 11 & 12: Changing face of Queen Street from British period to the present

Social characteristics of an urban space can be determined by the type of user group, type of activities, nucleus and variations in activity, degree of activeness and by routine/ non-routine activities. Physical entity is the media which social characteristics of a place can be implemented. Articulation of a physical space could be achieved by the imperatives of social and psychological of a place.

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<sup>10</sup> Rappaport 1983 p-107



## Psychological characteristics

Psychological forces facilitate to code the relationship between the man & the physical environment. Every place in the universe contains a meaning and it further constructs an identity for itself. Meaning of the place derives from the attachments of its psychological paradigms. Even though meaning of a place differs from one to another, thus intellectual interaction of a place differs as the same routine. Its basically generate by the meaning of human interactions and their experiences.



Fig 13 & 14: Festival character of a place and Its Psychological definition

[dalada perahera— source: Gunasena, D.]

Graphical interpretation of the perahera by author]

Experience the space with our senses is the only ways to acquire an overview of the space around us where we gain an empirical understand of real space. Tschumi notes few factors to consider the above scenario as; "impossibility of questioning the nature of space and at the same time making or experiencing a real space... we cannot experience and think that we experience; it then follows that, the concept of space is not in space"<sup>11</sup>.

The characteristics of any place cannot be captured except as experiential entities. Any characteristics whether physical or social indeed experimental and therefore they could be assigned as psychological.

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<sup>11</sup> Tschumi, 1990 p - 27

## 2:1 Historical background of streets

Streets came into function from the formation of the cities and history reveals that most of the early streets were narrow only meant for pedestrian use. Then it was later developed to wider ones which enable to cater to wheeled traffic.



Fig 15: communal activity as a basic concept of street, nomadic African Bushmen<sup>1</sup>



Fig 16: the hunted herd as road makers; rock carving namforsen, Sweden.<sup>2</sup>

Originally it was in the medieval Roman, Moorish, Spanish, Persian and some of the cities of the west which were having brick or stone paved streets used for city and intercity transportation.

Road and street are different social institutions and are meant for human movements. Therefore a path cleared by an individual becomes a road or street only if he is followed by others. As a result of the path had more names were denoted with pathway as being a social institution like; Alleyway: which implies a pathway, Avenue: a wide street with one or more lines of streets, Boulevard: tree lined street.

<sup>1</sup> Anderson, S. 1986, p -15

<sup>2</sup> Ibdb , p - 17



Anderson [1978] indicates three types of terms when considering the street, other than the above.

1: terrace, row, arcade, embankment or gallery:

display the way in which the street physically constituted by its context.

2: path, track, parade, promenade or mall:

are connected with ways of proceeding on foot.

3: highway, artery, thoroughfare:

relates to vehicular traffic and to legal and engineering it involves.

Demand for streets came into being enabling commercial and industrial activities to take place. And also streets have been developed with the development of cities and intercity transportation. Therefore streetscapes were also developed to cater the situation of human movement and the behavior of the society.

### **2:1:2 streets in Sri Lankan context and its history**

There are evidence to prove that streets were also constructed skillfully using the best materials that were available even in the ancient Ceylon when the constructed industry was in the stage of developed and well planned state.



Fig 17: ancient street structure of monasteries at Anuradhapura

Brohier [1973] cites that "Anuradhapura is emphatically a city of the dead scarce a step can be taken, but the eye falls on some memorial of the past. The bricks which the foot strikes are the remains of palaces. Clear where pillars, door steps, figures of janitors all caved on stone are disclosed. Amidst a silence as profound as the grave, rise the



colossal remains of the city which once echoed with revelry and song, while processions of kings and priests would along the broad pavements of now deserted courtyards prostrate themselves before richly endowed shrines."<sup>3</sup>

In the later period of Kandyan kingdom had dawned, there was a well planned city street, lakes, palaces, temples and *devalas*. Brohier [1973] further explains the significant of that period as; the building imposingly flanked and overlooked a section of mat of the old fort for a length of about 200 yards. They were originally reached by a drawbridge which afforded access to an arched doorway and flights of steps which lead to the palace and the temple of the tooth relic and the *paththiripuwa*."<sup>4</sup>

The street pattern in the city of Kandy was designed mainly to cater the function of *perahera*<sup>5</sup> where thousands of dancers, drummers and elephants are performing. The distance of the three elephants and their mahouts were taken as the main consideration when the erection of the *dalada weediya*. The function clearly applied in-terms of making the form of the street layout. Not even that the character of streetscape manipulated to cater the *perahera* function. Balconies of the buildings along the *dalada weediya* were projected to the street to cater aristocrats where verandahs were designed to host the rest.



Fig 18: Kandy *perahera* yesterday & today [source: insight guide – Sri Lanka]

<sup>3</sup> Brohier, 1973, p- 68

<sup>4</sup> Brohier, 1973, p- 186

<sup>5</sup> Annual religious procession of the tooth relic of Lord Buddha during each August.

The cities and streets were altered during the period of invaders, to suite their life style and desires. The functions of transportation and military were the main consideration in the beginning of colonial Ceylon. Most of them include Portuguese and Dutch were able to build their life-style within the fortification where British spread their wings through the island till 1948. The pattern of the street lay out was based on the geographical conditions and the geometry of the fortification where it was finally arose as a grid pattern.

The street functions in the present are drastically changed from the date of initiation. Society itself experience more personal freedom than past and it leads to a liberalized period where individual taste is dominating over the society.



Fig: 19, 20: Changing of the built environment in British period & now - [source 19: images of British Ceylon, 20: author]

## **2:2 Place Making in the Street**

### **2:2:1 Spatial attributes of street**

#### **Dynamics of street form [the spatial enclosure]**

Dynamism of the street is affected by the degree of enclosure and it's directly associated with man's relative position within a place in the urban street. Here it is defined by the physical form which governs to construct a final formation and structure to the space.



The surrounding buildings, their facades and changing pattern of skyline and building line define the shape of the enclosure, when considering a segment of the street. Changing of those factors cause a variety in the space of the street when it is perceived as a progression. Further it has been strengthened by the statement of Todd, W.K.[1985] as; "the sensitive use of varying degrees of enclosure, from almost complete enclosure does not really occur in exterior space because complete enclosure implies four solid walls and a solid roof- to almost none existent allows very different spaces."<sup>6</sup> As species human beings have different characters, experiences and understand the world in different ways. Thus they attach meaning to spaces, places and organize them differently developing schemata.

### **Sense of enclosure**

The sense of enclosure is created by the ratio between the building heights to width of the road. Also it modulated by the building line and the skyline of flanking buildings. Therefore, if the width of the road is high, it tends to decrease the sense of enclosure, the sense of security and the sense of belongingness of the space towards the street.

The sense of enclosure also helps to retain people comfortably in a street. Different plan configuration or building lines within a given enclosed urban street space leads to create different degree of enclosures;

1. narrowing building line aligned on both sides
2. recession of building on both sides
3. recession of building on one side
4. street space extended in to building

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<sup>6</sup> Todd, W.K.[1985] , p-42



### Shape of the enclosure

Generally urban streets could be identified as a longitudinal stretch. But there are some examples of oblique, angular or curved spaces where spontaneous developments still exist.

As we discussed earlier enclosure can stimulate human senses. The quality of each space such as high-low, wide-narrow are observable. There are directly related with its experience. A straight longitudinal enclosed street creates an impression of formality and grandeur while the long curving building lines of a street encloses the space effectively and hides the view of the street end to create a curiosity and anticipation. In this sense one person could perceive a number of proximate enclosed sections while moving along a curved street space.



Fig 22, 23: Variety of the spatial structure; alleyways in Spain

Large urban space creates a grandiose feeling with man becoming small and insignificant creating awe and an overwhelming experience. The street space not only a product of plan configuration but also it manipulate with building sections. Therefore different spaces and shapes in urban streets cause different spatial experience to the perceiver.

## Spatial progression

The meaningful variety and movement towards the end of the street creates a spatial progression where experience changes with the time. The urban streetscape can always be experienced with anticipation by inducing forward movement. A well-defined beginning and end character tend to identify a progression pattern in a street. The space is articulated to induce movement from one situation to another.

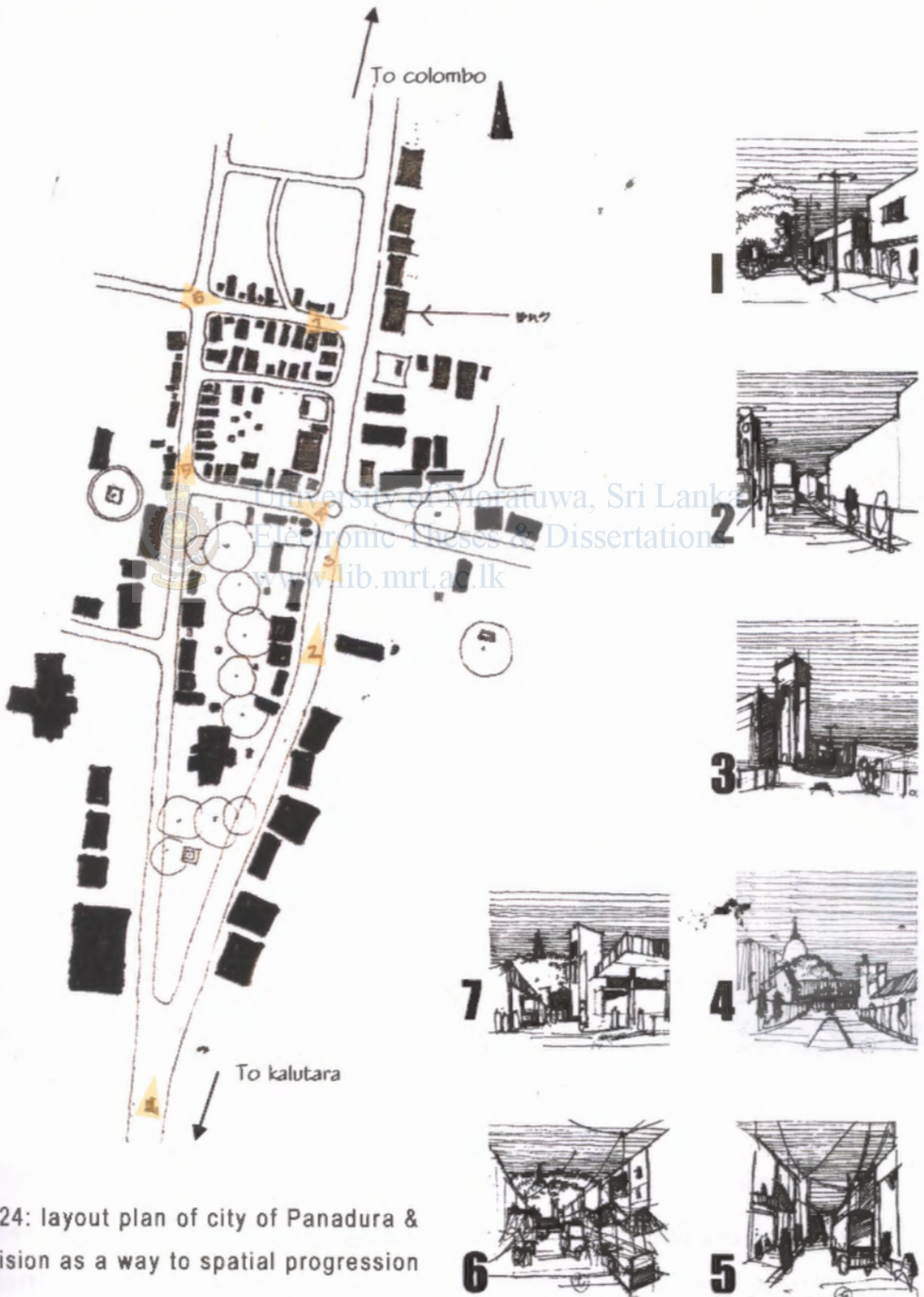


Fig 24: layout plan of city of Panadura & Serial vision as a way to spatial progression

Important components such as landmarks, nodes, edges etc, effect to create a spatial progression, which stimulates the physical entity. This variety with a changing of skyline will be the push and pull factors created for successful spatial progression. Also spatial experience differs with the time, building, focal points, visual cues and contrasting spaces. Spatial experience becomes tedious if it's without above factors.

### **2:2:2 Streetscape, Its Components and Character.**

As explained earlier, street is an enclosed space. The components which tend to make a segment of street as a space are the ground [the street itself], walls [facades of buildings on either side] and perceptual ceiling [the sky above]. The shape, size and the visual experience tend to differ when one of those above said plane differs. The ground plane which is the street is comprised of elements such as the path, walkways on side, car parks, and islands on the centre, fences, traffic signs and commercial billboards. The compositions of those elements generate different visual qualities to the street.



Fig 25: changing face of streetscape by billboards  
source: [Gunasena, D.]

Variations in the building line, skyline, elements of the walls, corridors denote various spatial qualities; thus giving a tangible identity which further denotes a character of the streetscape. The character of a



streetscape with continuous linear spaces constructs a grandeur and dominant character due to the continuous perception.

Streetscape expresses a domestic character where it composes with a set of different verandahs or lobbies within a continuous fabric. The richness and the variety of the façade will enhance above stated character successfully.

Set of windows and series of openings elicit a story of the inside. The façade is more or like a silver screen to the audience in the street. There ratio of solid and void determine the threshold of the private – public relationship. It further defines the character of the street as well. Alexander [1977] cite this relationship in his famous pattern language book as; "a street without windows is blind and frighten. And it is equally uncomfortable to be in a house which bounds a public street with on window as all on the street"<sup>7</sup>.



Fig 26: changing face of queen streetscape 1936 above, 1986 below  
[Source: responsive environment]

There could be different scenes in the nature of our space out there. As we discussed in the chapter one character of a place is defined and further manipulated by the composition of its physical, social and psychological paradigms.

<sup>7</sup> Alexander, C. 1977, p- 770

Vitruvius has identified three scenes in social life which generate through a place as follows; "there are three kinds of scenes, one called tragic, second the comic, third the satiric. Tragic scenes are delineated with columns, pediments, statues and other objects suited for kings, comic scenes exhibit private dwellings with balconies and views representing rows of windows, after the manner of ordinary dwellings. Satiric scenes are decorated with trees, caverns, mountains and other rustic objects delineated in landscape style."<sup>8</sup>

Fig 27: monolithic façade dominant the built environment  
; great ware house, Galle



By stating above statements he tried to construct a relationship between the street character and its' possessing activity. The types of components of the streetscapes differ in accordance with the routine, the nature and frequency of activity and its user. From the above stated statements, it is apparent that the components of a streetscape, their relationships and expressive qualities generate a character to the particular segment of a street.

Fig 28: character of the street  
enhancing the prominence  
Relationship of the great ware house  
& commanders' house



<sup>8</sup> Anderson, 1978, p-29



## 2:3 Role of Street in the City

### 2:3:1 Functions of street

As discussed earlier street influence the form, structure and comfort of the urban community. The role played by streets in urban life is very significant. Transport is the primary objective of the street coupled with communication between different places.



Fig 29: different colors of street use, pondicherry by author

Streets allow people a chance to be outside. Especially for people who are in tight urban environments and do not obtain private gardens or immediate access to park. Streets provide them with a suitable alternative to be spending time in outside and every inch of social activity is taken place. Therefore it is a place to meet people, to see and to be seen in. The street want to be universal, no body belongs to that or even on one owns this space as a norm. But in the contemporary context this has created a public space as another territory of the globalization. Safeguards and barriers are not a strange in the current period. 'No parking' and 'do not enter' are most common titles due to the security and to maintain the distance. It can be inferred that streets exist because of the sociability of people. However it is also possible to be alone in a street, to create a private niche in which to wonder and to gaze at passers by.

Fig30: activities are frozen by law  
, Lyen Baan Street





Considering the functional features of street, they fulfill a symbolic, ceremonial, social and political role as well as facilitating movement and access. Sometimes streets can become the focus of the city fabric rather than individual buildings.

An urban street could be made to accommodate and can perceive as a social link between people. It facilitates the opportunity for interaction and communication, which is essential for the existence of healthy and well integrated society. Streets primarily facilitate transportation/ movement between places and secondarily communication between different places, whereas the urban environment is composed of many people seeking a general order that is consisting with their own particular environment.



Fig 31 & 32,: **diversity and verity** of the context while almost **dynamic**;  
Madras-India by author

In this sense, urban street must recognize the nature and limits of the interaction of people with their environment. The physical structure is important in-terms of influencing the satisfaction of people's needs and means of communication while providing a joy. Urban Street must be considering as an important social asset, which facilitates the legibility of a city.

Able to understand and recognize the social asset and facts are important in-terms of create and maintain a better streetscape. It can further important to preserve its social value to generate a legible and meaning full urban life for the citizen.

Thus it can be improve day-to-day social links, by introduction of recreational activities, entertainment and conservation areas as well as ritual observations and processions. The benefit of the street can be felt by a group of people rather than just individuals.

### Street as a public open space

Responsive spaces which are designed and managed to serve the public, needs primarily to satisfy comfort human desires, provide relaxation, active and passive engagement and discovery. Thus they can also be a setting for physically and psychologically rewarding activities such as conversation, exercise or gardening etc. Those activities will provide a mentally relief from the streets of daily life as well.



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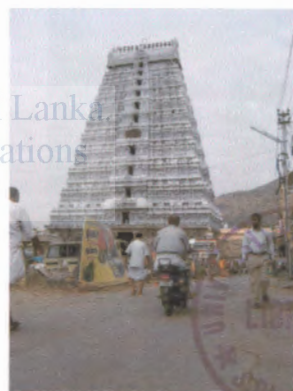


Fig 33: Street facilitates the activities of the temple, madrass, India.

Streets are concerning as a major public space along with squares to facilitate form to the ebb and flow of human exchange. There is a dynamic balance between public and private in each and every community. Public welfare has been remarked as a primarily motivation for creating or improving the public space. Both active and passive engagement with others, promote individual wellbeing and a sense of community. Due to result of these public spaces can be classified as places for experiencing our selves as well as others.



Public space could be places which cater the needs of the people. Also these public spaces can be changed by the actions of the people, because every one owns it. One can temporary lay claim to a piece of turf even when one doesn't own it.

### **Street as a place of communication**

The communication can be classified as one of the key element of the sociological arrangement of the communal life. The communication between physical embodies and social layer, as well as between both physical and social are equally important in-terms of creating a cohesive urban environment. Streets have a vital contribution to archive above quality in terms of allocating a space for a communication.



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Fig 34: children add a life to the street

People reduce the utilization of streets if it is making only for a channel for automobiles to pass through. A stop in a street for conversation, relation or comfort may enable a person to rest and escape from the monotonous day-to-day and to fulfill the need of been as a group. Anderson, V. & Mouden [1986] cites that, "streets are components of urban communication system – the means of moving objects, people and information from one sector to another"<sup>9</sup>.

Streets can be used and interpreted differently with same physical configurations due to mans' adaptable quality over a period of time. The street as a place of communication is endowed with permanence that survives the physical evolution of the city.

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<sup>9</sup> Anderson, V. & Mouden [1986], p- 86



Urban streets have become grounds where public protests are held which serving as a setting for public demonstrations. Therefore street must facilitate interaction, accessible and also benefit to the particular group of people. It can serve for human needs through quiet relaxation as well as active engagement.

The concept of '*pola*' is no longer strange in the traditional Sinhalese context. Gathering of people is not meant to be the shopping at the first preference, but other activities are lying behind the scene. Generally *pola* located at the concentrated place of the village or at the *kadamndiya*<sup>10</sup> where most of villagers could be attend. *Pola* is a consisting of series of alleyways or pathways where villagers tend to gossip, see and to been seen their life. Shopping as term defines in different way in the contemporary context. It was a mode of interaction in the past but now it is more or less influence by the modern technology especially by the telecommunication. Consumer time had been reduced up to a time of clicking a key on the Personal computer. The architecture of the street is important when considering the urban shopping centers in the contemporary situation.

The communication between the pedestrian and the vehicular are one of the crucial issues in shopping context. Alexander, C [1977] cites on the relationship with street and the social interaction as follows; "shopping centers depend on access, they need isolation near major traffic areas. However, the shoppers' them-selves don't benefit from traffic: they need quiet, comfort and convenience, and access from the pedestrian paths in the surrounding areas."<sup>11</sup>

Progressing thought urban streets induces one to make assumptions about who owns and controls it, who lives it or uses it, the purpose for which it was built and activities happening in it.

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<sup>10</sup> Sinhalese term for small town centre during the past decade

<sup>11</sup> Alexander, C. [1977] p-175

### Street as a Place of Celebration

Occasional public events, ceremonies, celebrations and festivals are important benchmarks of the communal life. They often seek in streets or stages along the street. Street theaters show how events can be brought to life in the open by simplest meanings.



Fig 35: street is become a promenade, pondicherry, India

People watch, socialize and entertain on streets and also buying and consuming food during their routine with further enhances the public life. The connection between man and the setting would be as immediate as between musician and the instrument. Thus street becomes a stage of gathering for especial events and performances taken place in the street for wide range of pleasure. Those events are able to capture together a mass of people even for a short period of time.

The stated issues have focus on how a street becomes important to a community and many different ways of perceiving the street by the community. The architecture of the street has to create appropriate spatial experience, in order to be utilized successfully by people. When considering the architecture, the character of streetscapes cannot be neglected due to the impact on the space which perceived in the progression.

There are essential principles of architecture pertaining to be mattered in a street. Such as spatial enclosure, sense of enclosure etc. these are some of the vital factors which important in defining street as a space. Also the character of the street defines the quality of the space and gives it an identity. The adaptability of street environment creates richness in life of the context which keeping a probable space for the



future. It is further explained by Lynch, K. [1986] as follows; "change is an important dimension of successful urban spaces. The ability of a place to evolve and change over time is an important quality of good environment"<sup>12</sup>

### **Streets as a Living Space**

The term space denotes a vast area, when look at the sky, sea or landscape we experience space. Built space of a street, space of building viewed from the outside or experienced from the outside, the space possessed by objects are the other experiences of space. In general it seems that space provides the context for places but derives its meaning from particular places.



Fig 35: the relationship of the community and the street. [Source: Charles Correa]

Norberg schulz [1976] cites the above issues as; "architectural space, although founded on and contributing to unselfconscious special experiences, involves a deliberate attempt to create spaces"<sup>13</sup>. Most often a street will be a space between built masses and it is a place of different for outsiders. Although streets are mean for transport, at the mean time serves as a living space.

The nature of the activity pattern and the ratio differs from the interior of the build mass. Street are more active when it locate in the tropics, the climate and culture of the context define the routine of the behavioral pattern of the street.

Most of the people in the world lived in street, they walked, danced, sang, ate and even kissed on the streets even in once in a life time.

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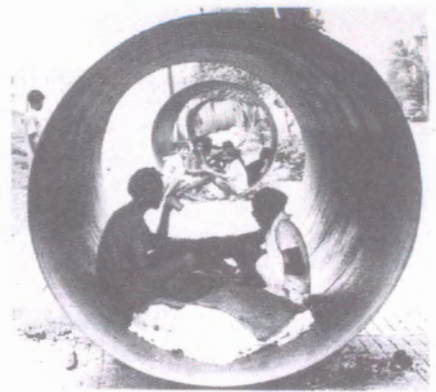
<sup>12</sup> Lynch, K. [1986] p - 23

<sup>13</sup> Schulz, 1976, p-22



Fig37: finally **street becomes a heaven** for those who have nothing.

[Source: Charles Correa]



The street is strongly attached to the life as a place. This is the place where we learnt about the world during our childhood, we met neighbors and have seen how they conduct as a society. Hence the urban street is not an empty space that has been left for the purpose of traveling alone. A number of day to day activities taken place on streets and developed as a living space through out the time.

#### 2:4 Activity Pattern as a Determinant Factor to the Street Character

The major determinant of architecture and its expressions are combination of four elements context, user, higher purpose and activity. Activity routine is more complete than a single notion of an activity. Streets become rather more complete due to the existence of series layer of activities as well as places.

The concentration of similar types of activities forms similar pattern of activity and expressive broader character in a larger scale. It is further defined by the zoning system of area. This scenario is hard to clarify in places like spontaneous development had occurred. As an example cross streets in Colombo fort is easy to identify by its character than cross streets wellawatta. Because Colombo fort is a well designed space while wellawatta was subsequently developed in a haphazard way.



Fig 38 & 39: variety of activities forms rich character to wellawatta in metropolitan Colombo

Wellawatta as whole define a rich character with in the metropolitan context of Colombo. It can be easily identify by the first sight due to the variety of its user, activities and physical elements in the urban fabric. The concentration of such activity pattern creates a distinctive image to a context. The concentration is depending on various factors such as social, political, economical etc.

The activity paten of a street is strongly deviate from streets' usage. Usage could be implementing by the time of the initiation of the street [define] as well as during the nature flow of using [concentration of activities]. There are few usages which exist in our built environment such as; residential, institutional, executive, cultural etc.

Cultural usage is generally formed in a contexts of religion background is there. Such as Temple of Tooth Relic- Kandy, Meera mosque – Galle, st Lucia's' Church- kotahena etc. character of related places like streets public places are strongly influence by the religious activity of the place.



Fig40: marching towards to the mosque



Residential usage is frequently notified in the built environment and it is further differentiates according to its socio – economic character, socio – political character etc. Commercial usage in urban environment is most dominant in the contemporary world due to the economic franchising of the country and change of the socio – political behavior of the community. The activity pattern in a particular zone is defining certain activities such as user group, specification of commercial function, the duration of it availability [morning, day and night].



Fig 41: queen street & light house 1880 [source: ismath-raheem]



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The executive usage of most urban areas had been undermined by the emergence of commercial usage, but this was at the most prominent stage during the time of imperial and colonial. The activities along the streets around an executive area are strongly influence by the usage. This pattern of evolution is evident in most of the post colonial spaces in our country. Such as Queen Street at Galle, Queen Street at Colombo fort.

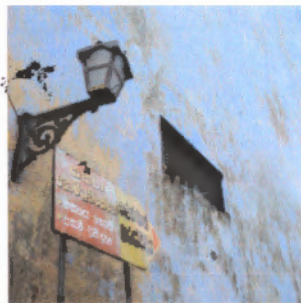


Fig 42 & 43: old parliament in front of a commercial fabric





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## **Evolution of Galle as a Fortified City to the Present**

Chapter Three

## Evolution of Galle as Fortified City to the Present

### 3:1 Origin of Galle

Galle was ruled under the region of Sinhalese kingdom when centuries ago. *Gaalla* or Galle was the old world's romantic city which owed its glory to its natural harbour. This was chosen as a port for excellent strategies reasons. It has been fine natural harbour which protected, to the west, by a south-pointing promontory--the next piece of land, literally, is the frozen waste of the Antarctic, over five thousand miles of distant.

This picturesque seaside resort was the centre of trade at those days due to its strategic position. When sailing vessels laden with merchandise from western countries of Egypt, Persia and Arabia to the eastern of China, Malaysia and Singapore converged. People of Galle prospered with the sale of exquisite curios made of tortoise shell, ebony, porcupine quills and elephants tasks.



Fig 44: castle over the sea [source: de Silva & Beumer 1998]

The town got its name as *gaalla* in the native tongue due to the large number of bullock carts that entered there and stalled in one place. The locality where were more numbers of carts and bulls stationed was called *maagalla* or *magolla*<sup>1</sup>. There was another set of argument about the

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from a discussion with Prof: B. Gunasena

origination of name "Galle". It is suggested that the name of the city derived from *galo* which was rooster in Portuguese.

Also that is strengthening by the carved inscription of the logo of the VOC [Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie, or United East India Company] on the outer stone lintel of the old gate.

### **3:2 colonial space making in galle fort**

Galle, the nodal point of Colombo – Matara road is a place where hundreds of historical layers are coinciding in. Several colonials were stamped their identity within this small peninsula which driven to Indian Ocean. This ancient port city of Galle is Sri Lanka's fourth largest town, with the population of 80000 people and a history that stretches back hundred of years. The colonial footprint is intensively manifested in the morphological arrangement of the city layout. The city layout is a mirror which deliberately explained the layers of the history. The buildings, street pattern, bastions and even the people itself expressing a story of the glorious past where Dutch soldiers from Rotterdam stood guard on the rampart watching the same sun go down before five centuries ago.

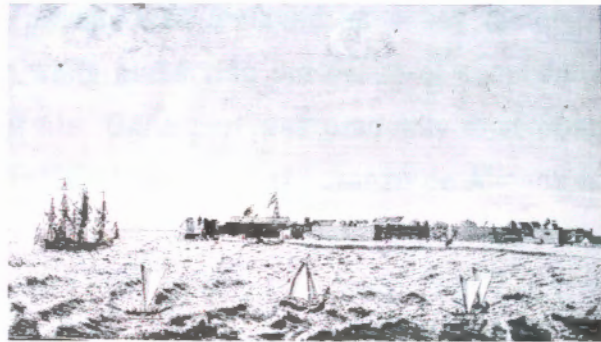
#### **3:2:1 Pre Colonial Period**

Galle is one of the famous ports from the ancient times along with *jambukolapattana* [kankasanthurai] and *mahathitha* [mannar]. Activities of the port were retained under the king but direct assistance was minimal due to the unavoidable geographic reasons. Land ownership, distribution of resources and collecting revenue on migration and immigration was done according to the royal law. The situation within the port was morally influenced by the arrival of Arabs and it leads to constitute a diversified urban environment which contrasting with the rest.



Pre colonial records of Galle are mostly received on the literature than in tangible materials. Several folklores and the records of ancient traveler proved about the existence of Galle port. The earliest recorded refer to Galle from the great Arab traveler Iban Bathuta who visited the port while traveling around the world between 1325- 1354.

Fig 45 : galle considered as a point of harbor sea [source: de Silva & Beumer 1984]



Galle fort is not only link to the sea but also has connections with midlands which produce world famous spices. The descriptions of Galle port are manuscript in several *sandesha* poems<sup>2</sup> in our literal history. Fifty fifth poem of the *thisara sandesha* [1385-1391] provide a magnificent image of the social life of the port city of Galle. The Sinhalese version of the poem is as follows;

55. අසුව පියබඳුන් පිය රැවු  
පයැද යා නොහී මහ වෙ  
සිටිති සලෙච්ඡුර් රති කෙළිය  
බලනුව ඔවුන් කල් නොයවන්

ඇතිල්ලේ  
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ලොල්ලේ  
ගාල්ලේ

English means as follows;

Author requesting from the messenger [swan] to have a glance at Galle to see the way of men and women enjoying their recreations.

But unfortunately historical evidence considerably low in tangible materials except some coins and porcelain artifacts which was extravagated by the archeological research and preserved in the Dutch museum in Prince Street in Colombo. The diversity factor of Galle port in

<sup>2</sup> Sinhalese ancient literature of poems

religion and ethnic made an exceptional state in the history rather than Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.

Arabs became the majority within the territories of port in a considerable period and their religion played a vital role in terms of creating a new spatial environment. Sense of privacy was archived as a key factor of making the spatial organization while preserving the sense of community as a basic need of their way of life. Galle port was gradually developed with these parameters till the accidentally arrival of Lorenzo de Almeda in 1505.

### 3:2:2 Portuguese Influences to the Erection of Galle Fort

The port itself became a fort when it was moved to the hands of Portuguese. In 1505 the son of Viceroy of Goa set foot in Galle accidentally when his fleet of ships on the way to the Maldives islands caught in a great storm at sea was compelled to take refuge in this harbour. Clearly the strategic significance of the harbour was impressed the Portuguese, for 82 years later in 1587; they seized control of the town from the Sinhalese king and began the construction of Galle fort.

Fig 46: Zwart bastion –evident of Portuguese architecture  
[source: Brohier 1978]



They constructed a barricade enclosing the projection of the land forward to the sea and fortified it with a moat to avoid attack from the mainland. The monopoly of the Muslim traders was still exist within the fort. By the way Portuguese started the collection of revenue from the port. Gradually they conquered the whole of the sea coast border finally established their region except hill country till the intervention from Dutch in 1640.

Portuguese were concentrating in to the trade and expansion of their religion, Catholicism on the innocent natives and ruled with an iron. The influence could be seen more in intangible facts than in tangible. Surnames, dress codes, cuisines and vocabulary were granted as token of their invasion. Most of the Portuguese's buildings were refurbished and demolished by the Dutch and it led a non-existence of the architectural manifestation of their own. There are few of Portuguese work is existing in the rampart and Zwart [black] bastion is believed to be the only surviving part of the original fortification.



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Fig 47: map of Portuguese fort  
drawn by de' Resende in 1640 –  
[source – brohier 1978]

In the beginning fort itself was complied with some informal squares and streets where most of activities soldiers took place in outside. The situation was deliberately described in a map drawn 1640 by Barretto de Resende, Brohier further explained the map as follows; "Their remark



their bastions by their saints, san lago, Santa Antonio and san conceycao overlooking the marsh"<sup>3</sup>

The spatial organization in the fort is more informal and central space was demarcated by huge rampart in one side and set of informally organized buildings. It had been a significant features in most their colonies. This scenario is further describing as: "the plan of the fort was significantly dominated by non-established informal square and crooked streets, there is no distinctive order among those squares or the streets and there was no Main Street or major square; the essential feature of the Portuguese city of this era"<sup>4</sup>

The spatial environment was implied as a result of temporary settlements of Portuguese. Most of the soldiers were single and without having family relationships. The activities were organized in an informal way rather than in organized manner where families were existed. Their leisure time was possessed by doing playing music, singing *baila*, dancing and popular cock fight. The character of the fort was manifested by the military concepts and activities of bachelor soldiers. This scenario constructed an impression of Portuguese community as alien to the natives. The folk stories<sup>5</sup> were narrated about their behavior pattern and they were expressing deviation from the existing community.

The spatial planning of the fort was thoroughly based to archive the sense of security. By the way Portuguese were not establishing a permanent settlement due to the desire in overtaking the trade from Arabs in Indian Ocean. The evidence of original Portuguese buildings disappeared but several manuscripts were there to describe by Lewcock [1988] and Munasinghe [1998] respectively as; "the most significant building type

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<sup>3</sup> Brohier [1978] p-34

<sup>4</sup> Brohier [1978] p-34

was humble two storied house wit projecting balconies, canopies and open verandah"<sup>5</sup> and "The verandah formed by an extending balcony and support it on timber columns was not physically closed, thus it was more an extension to the over spilling activities of the street."<sup>6</sup>

During the foremost period of Ceylon was Portuguese architecture almost undermined by the invasion of Dutch? And also they didn't posses a peacefull time in here due to embattle which was existed few forts during their period. Therefore their architectural features have to trace form some where else in their colonies in contemporary period at that time. Portuguese buildings are still existing and presently well conserved in places like Goa, Cochin, Daman in India and island in Malacca in Malaysia.<sup>7</sup>



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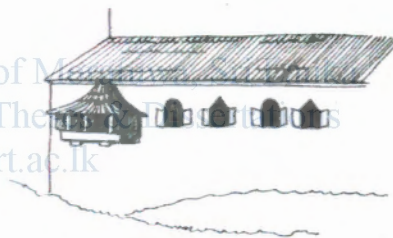


Fig 48: mashrabia in Galle fort by  
Heydt 1740 – [source: lewcock 1998]

Fig. 6. "Mushrabiyya" in Galle Fort. (from Heydt c. 1740).

Here given example is a house form Goa which further elaborates the use flush window grills, mushrabiyya, double storied floors etc. there was of manifesting private public ratio was comprehensively done within the built fabric. The existence of verandah was also notified in those houses. That a few features which Portuguese brought from the indigenous architecture from the tropical countries.

<sup>5</sup> Lewcock, 1988, p-122

<sup>6</sup> Munasinghe, 1998, p-111

<sup>7</sup> Lewcock, 1998, p-153

One of the most elaborated window forms was double arch style which already followed in most of the Dutch buildings too as an example Dutch church in Matara, the great warehouse in fort. Window form was consisting of large panels which were more than 1.5" on its' thickness.<sup>8</sup>

Fig 49 : distinctive features of Portuguese house form Goa [source: lewcock 1998]



Fig 7.



Fig 8.

The relationship of public and private ratio of the dwelling and the street had such indispensable way where it was completely differ with traditional vernacular system. Relationship of the street with social order was significant in the Portuguese era. The most happening place was the verandah where given facilitation to the desires of Portuguese soldiers. There is no such space called front garden, like contemporary vernacular dwelling of the natives. Portuguese verandah was almost projected to the street edge and demarcated the street line. As a result of those factors, street edge became more flourished with activities and it manifested a communal character towards with a festive mood not only in a specific period but also through out the year.

<sup>8</sup> [Lewcock 1998- 156]



### 3:2:3 Dutch in the Expansion of Galle Fort

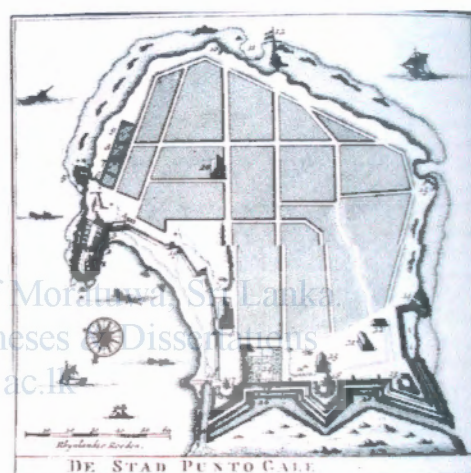
Forts finally moved under the region of VOC and encourage Dutch to settle down here to establish proper manner in ruling and maximize their profit in trade. Dutch identified the important of spices and locally grown crops as a mercantile item. They further involved into the cultivation of some spices in the midland especially cinnamon trade. They established a special system to develop cinnamon cultivation with in the specific caste group and encourage them by giving status and land ownership in respectively.



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Fig 50: map drawn by Valentijn in 1726

[source: de silva and beumer 1984]



This was a major turning point in the social structure in the hinterland. It effects in destroyed the conservative social structure and leads to exist a monopoly in agriculture. The land allocation for cinnamon cultivation act as a pull factor urban migration and create a new society called labour. This was the basic idea of the creation of labour community and they were essential members of the mercantile process.

At the same time VOC encourage their natives to work in their colonies more than ten years of time. They were more concentrate on trade rather than Portuguese. As a result of that Dutch were able to settle with their families. Finally resultant was truly a diversified society with labors,

merchants, aristocrats and militants with their families living within a fort. The administration under the VOC was more international order where education, religion, political, militant as well as recreational arranged in a formal manner. Munasinghe further explained this scenario as; " Dutch dominated urban community that thrived in the Galle fort was a 'formal and cold' one. The emerging new social order demanded a new urban form different from Portuguese fort. Those crooked streets were replaced with ordered straight streets, Informal spaces with more formal spaces and the humble houses with grandeur built forms"<sup>9</sup>

Fig 51: plan of the fort with  
existing of quarters [source: de  
silva and beumer 1984]



As discussed earlier the street layout of Galle fort is significant when considering other ancient cities of Sri Lanka. More divergence activities were accommodated along the streets while maintaining the sense of community and their [Dutch] way of life.

There were three types of streets functioned within the fort as the major street [s], secondary streets and service streets. The hierarchical order of street pattern was viable to facilitate functions of inhabitants of the fort. Munasinghe notes some of the texts of Vealentijn who visited Galle fort in

<sup>9</sup> Munasinghe, 1998,p-116

1726; .... the city is built with symmetry and neatness . . . . there many moderate wide streets, some of earth and some of grass growing.<sup>10</sup>

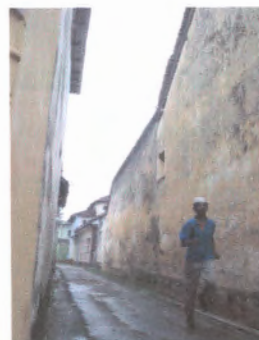


Fig 52 : connection of two quarters together  
– service streets, galle fort

The physical character of streets in those period as follow, major roads are dominated by column fronted verandahs of dwellings and public buildings, while the street edge of the secondary streets were remarked by large built forms like storage or blind walls of their houses. The minor roads which were renowned as service lanes were enclosed by larger built forms such as service buildings and high walls of the yards.<sup>11</sup> Those streets were used for specific functions and the streetscape of each was expressed a certain character deeply attached to its functions. The physical properties of each place had a vital role in terms of creating a responsive place. Openness of verandah was restricted according to the evolved functioned, from an extension for public activities to a filter for family oriented lifestyle. The verandah was still a social space, used during the day by women and in the evening by men.

The land use pattern in the fort was structured by the mercantile community which strongly connected by the VOC. Most of the lands were owned by VOC and they further developed for existence of different functions such as schools, warehouses, hospitals, church etc and the quarters of land was used for residential activity by Dutch. The response

<sup>10</sup> de silva & beumen [1978] p-76

<sup>11</sup> Munasinghe, 1998,p-119



to the streets in the fort was quite different from the Sinhalese vernacular villages. The front garden which was unique to the Sinhalese villages was not more exist in the fort. The need of the front garden and its activities were alternated by the verandah itself. They create public – private ratio by manipulating some physical properties of the streetscape. It is further explained by Munasinghe as; "in this street edge was occupied yet demarcating the territory with physical measures such as timber trellis, gates, higher plinths and the house orient inwards".<sup>12</sup>



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Fig 54,55 – two paradigms of dwelling  
Dutch house – peddler street – Galle  
Walawwa - Gampola

Sinhalese way of creating private- public ratio was rather different and it didn't express by any other physical properties except by changing of the level. Verandah of Sinhalese dwelling was there to facilitate visitors, in terms of accommodations, eating and having gossip. Dutch used verandah for a demarcation as well as for a barrier to the street. The front façade of the verandah was a manifestation of the family to the outside. The ratio of solid- void, the material and textures used and order,

<sup>12</sup> Munasinghe, 1998,p-114

proportion of the columns were some of the physical properties which elaborate the character of the streetscape.

There was another significant space emerged during the period of Dutch. The *pettah*; Munasinghe explained the origin of the *pettah* as "the *pettah* was the term used to identified the area immediately a fortified quarter and this is a term borrowed from Tamils.<sup>13</sup> At the beginning the fort was exclusively used by the Dutch except it was facilitate some space for mercantile functions to the outsiders. This place was earlier used by the Arabians who were chased out from the fort by the Dutch during the erection of new fort.

The street layout of *pettah* was strongly responding to the directions of the fort and it was influenced by its spatial planning. The plot division was emerged by responding to the street pattern and the land use pattern was highly concerned about the need of the residential and commercial activities. The majority of the population in *pettah* was Arabians and the built form was strongly manifested by their way of life which further executed by higher plinth, partially enclosed verandah, trellis work and blessed hygrograph on the front lintel. Their dwellings were detach each other by the side and it form continues fabric thought out the streetscape, which is completely different from the Sinhalese way of dwelling.

### 3:2:4 Developments under the British Rule

Nearly after three centuries Portuguese and British were able to set up Ceylon under one colony in 1815. Efforts of Portuguese and Dutch to bring the entire island in to one region had been frivolous at the end. Each and every colonial were able to capture the country by patches along the coast line and established their administration for limited

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<sup>13</sup> Munasinghe, 1998,p-117



proportion of time. British took over the power from Dutch in 1796 furnished their colony with covering entire island with contribution of aristocrats of the royal palace.



Fig : 56,57:  
changing face of the entrance [old to new]

Situation out side was more peaceful than before due to the existence of their power. As a result of that ramparts, fortification and the defensive moats were not need any more. The mash land which located in-between *pettah* and fort was converted in to an esplanade, which was facilitated their recreational need. This was one of the major changes due to psychology of independence on their [British] own. The fort was exclusively for the foreigner during the period of Dutch. But the scenario was changed during the British. Most of them were able to move out from the fort to larger extend lands in the suburbs of Galle and their places were spaces with larger gardens and grandeur verandahs.

British introduced a zoning system to the urban planning and this was succeeded due to the availability of the administrative power in the entire country. Their spatial environment was expressed their grandeur, power and strength of their region. By the way Galle fort divided into two zones as institutional and residential, while commercial activities were shifted out to *pettah*.



The importance of Queen Street as a major street was undermined by the evolution of the new entrance. British further enhanced the entrance by building a clock tower on the moon bastion in 1881 and shifted the entrance away from the old one.



Fig 58: st: Ann's' Anglican Church on church street

Most of the administrative buildings in Dutch era were subjected to change their functions in the period of the British. The commanders' assistance was not important within the fort like the period of Dutch. As a result of that the façade of the commanders' house was completely modified to acquire grandeur character which was a feature of the British period. The old timber columns and trellis work in verandah was replaced by heavy concrete arches. The assistance house was converted into a public building and the emergence of Anglican Church was happened during this period. The construction date of the church was given as 1871 AD. British didn't restrain the existence of Roman Catholic Church or Dutch reformed church. But they further encourage the expansion of Anglican.

British add more changes to the former built environment which was built by Dutch. Effects of the activities which were generated by functions were strongly influence to the change of the character of the street. Not only the change in the function they also add physical definition to the fort. The word recreation emerged to the urban setting during the period of

British. Guarding soldiers at the ramparts were replaced by good looking British ladies with their Victorian dresses.

Most of the Dutch residencies were handed over to the local mercantile community while British gone after more spacious lands in the suburbs. Arabs and Sinhalese were among in the group of the migrants to the fort. These two racial groups began to classify their own identity within the territory of the British. The occupation of the land use pattern was significant among these two groups and it was admirable to notify the character of the dwellings. The façade of the dwelling itself was an image of the inhabitants to the outsiders.



Fig 59, 60: contrasting building elements in homogenous European built fabric, meera mosque and sudharmamaya

Emergence of the minarets was ascertained among the homogeneous European built fabric. The plot division was drastically changed with erection of the mosque in 1857, which is axially orientated towards to their holly direction of Mecca. They further added few buildings to fulfill their requirements of Muslim community, such as Arabic college, Muslim community centre at the light house street. Those changes directly impact to the change of the socio- physical character of the street with the introduction and the alternation of few activities.



Sinhalese mercantile community was also moved into the fort premises and ultimately they were tried put their stamp in the so-called European territory. It was the turning point of the fort history because of the abandoned Portuguese church was turn in to a Buddhist temple in the Rampart street. The conceptual idea behind the Buddhist architecture was not expressed by the church but it was standing like a landmark of one side at the fort. Assembly hall which covered by pointed arches was altered into a *banamaude* of the temple while enrich the premises by erection of the *stupa*.

The street layout was not drastically changed but subjected to modify by the changing and adding some functions along the streets. The hierarchical order of the streets was simultaneously changed during this period. It's further explained as; "the original entrance became secondary undermining queen streets' role as the main street. These changes mere not been able to erase the original street layout, thus appear more as an addition."<sup>14</sup>



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Fig 61: Havelock's canal during the British, pettah

At the same time *pettah* and outside of the fort was subjected to change drastically to fulfill socio-economic needs. Introduction of Colombo - Matara road separated the connection between the fort and *pettah*. And it is further highlighted by the modification of the front marshy land in to a public esplanade. This was initiated by the Portuguese as defensive

<sup>14</sup> Munasinghe, 1998,p-131





element from natives and Dutch were further developed it according to the maximum projection distance of the artillery at front bastions.<sup>15</sup>



Fig 62: contestant to the built environment, Havelock's canal now

The growth of commercial activities in *pettah* was significant during this period. British add few market buildings as catalytic functions to enrich the context. It was further encouraged by the inauguration of pipe borne water service from *hiyare* with a reservoir at *Beke* to supply town with water at the end of nineteenth century by British. However the street layout pattern was existed as according to early traces. Tamil merchants were move in to the *pettah* with their traditional profession – jewelry manufacturing and add more richness to the China Garden.



Fig 63: separate vegetable market and fish market in 1860 at Talbot town

<sup>15</sup> sun, moon and star bastions

The changing pattern of Galle fort during the British was considerably less when comparing to the Dutch. They basically introduced a zoning system and move out from the residential and major administrative involvements. Muslims and Sinhalese merchants were awarded a chance to stamp their identity within the fort due to these circumstances.

### **3:3 Post - Colonial Spaces in Galle Fort.**

Colonialism was smashed off from the world, as a result of that at the end of the world war two. Colonialism had two major periods during their power in American, African and Asian continents. Their concentration was more in to the mode of trade or mercantile and changed into industrial oriented after industrial revolution at the down of nineteenth century. This was clearly manifested from the spatial arrangements of their colonies. Encouragement of cultivation in various crops such as cinnamon, cardamom during the period of Dutch coffee, tea, rubber and tobacco during the period of British etc. Their attention was moved into service based economy where industrial spaces were emerged. The introduction of railway, telegraphs, industries such as graphite at bogala, kahatagaha were among that.

This was further continued by the Ceylon government after the independence. The industrial spaces were extended here after and more functions were added during the 1950's and 1960's. Galle fort had to face similar scenario of evolution. Few land plots were taken into the concentration of industrial land use. The land plot at Queen Street next to the commanders' house was taken by walker & company for a junkyard of motor activities. Also most of the buildings in Peddler Street were taken by Haley's company and Cargill's company for their industrial purposes.



The zoning system of the land use in fort which was introduced by British was continued by the Ceylon government and the segregation of residential industrial activities tend define a specific character to each zone. And most of the important administration functions were taken to Colombo and their provincial offices held at the same premises. As a result of that density of the workforce and staff were reduced. And it's further cites as; "Galle has lost most of it trading activities to Colombo during the British rule and the society has significantly from trade oriented one to a service community. The city has acquired a new image according to the new social order. But the particular colonial roots can still be identified with in this new image"

The socio- political space after the independence was towards to so-called nationalism and it was further strengthened by the revolution of 1956. Vision of the government was to enforce Sri Lankan tradition and the values of their culture which was almost neglected since 1505. The art forms and entire networking of government system was changed into the nationalism. It was significantly manifested in the spatial entities the movement of particular art forms renowned as "the art & craft movement" of that period. Most of the newly emerged buildings were decorated by the artifacts of ancient periods such as lotus, moonstones, pillars etc. also roof pattern was similar to Kandyan roof style and followed the built form of *paththirippuwa* as emblem of Sinhalese tradition. At the same time the built environment was flourished with styles and the accent of the modern movement. University of Peradeniya, YMBA building at Colombo and Independence building can be trace as examples for above scenario.

This trend was almost notified in the few buildings in the fort such as in the Light House Street and Rampart Street. Using of huge glasses for windows, projected sun shades, leaner compositions of façade were few



characters of that specific built forms. Most of the inhabitants were moved into Colombo due as a result of urbanization and few buildings were furnished by new functions such as nursery schools and hostels. Makan Marker building in Church Street was given to Arabic College for their hostel requirements. Wijewardana walawwe was taken as the primary school of Southlands Girls' College. Both buildings could be taken as an example for better conservation approaches in the built environment and they are still functioning.



Fig 64: modern influence in built environment, Church Street,

The changing of these activities was exposed by the street character of themselves. The verandah is the most memorable feature in the fort and it had to adopt number of changes in its lifetime. Munasinghe cites about the changing pattern of the verandah as; "in Galle the verandah is one of the lost spaces with departure of Dutch. Comfortable furniture, paintings, pictures hanging on the walls and the laughter has all disappeared from the verandah of the house"<sup>16</sup>. Most of the verandahs converted to host some commercial activities such as communication spot, lawyers' offices, cafeterias, jewelers' shops and most of them are neglected with junkyards.

The outer city of Galle town was developed along the Colombo- Matara road. Erection of the town hall building in 1968, post office building in 1987 and the police station at the edge of the Talbot town in 1986 was

<sup>16</sup> munasinghe [1998], p - 136

concerned as turning points of the spatial environment of Galle city. Development of the transportation terminal between the *pettah* and the fort impacted with a huge traffic conjunction to the city. It further acts like visual barrier to the fort from the *pettah*.



Fig 65: Expression of modern architecture  
– urban council, Galle

The commercial activities which arose during this period brought up a different atmosphere to the spatial entity. Every building looks the same way from the outside due to availability of modern technology and telecommunication. Most of the shops were introverted and façade was used as an expression of their wealth and power which is not relevant to the commercial functions at all.

The activity of the building was not expressed by the façade and most of the buildings looked like a castles and palaces which symbolize the roots of the colonialism but in thin glasses or steel sheets. Most of the street spaces in the *pettah* and Talbot town create a similar character which is not relevant to their activities. The responsiveness of the urban space were under mined by these new impressions and the scenario is further explained by Premathilake, M. as follows; "our streets, cities and countryside are a colophony ill fitting building in uneasy relationship with their neighbors. We are unable to agree on the larger parameters of design. As a consequence our temples look like villa s, villas look like

police stations and police stations look like temples. As a society we appear in phenomenal disharmony"<sup>17</sup>

The front esplanade was converted into a sports stadium where most schools were taken for their annual sports venues. Then the identity of Galle fort was slightly impact due to close relationship with the community. Early the fort itself was standing like great commemoration of the defense and the character was changed in to place for recreation. Couples are frequent picturesque on the ramparts at the present, where it was governed by the soldiers in four hundred years ago.

### **3:4 Evolutions of the City Plan and Street Layout**

Galle has been developed in a sequel process under different region and it was mentioned in the previous subchapter 3:2. Pre-colonial manifestations proved that this was used for port activities during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century AD. The city plan and street layout of that period unable to manifest by any tangible evidence but literature is there to construct an image of that period. The city was formed by merchant and port activities and it was more similar to Muslim territory due to the majority of their racial group as inhabitants of the port.

The character of a street is a production of its physical properties, concepts of the particular place, and activities which consisting of.<sup>18</sup> Eventually the routine of activity pattern is one of the determine factors to its character. The way of life-style of Muslims was completely different from the way of Portuguese. Muslims way was formed and shaped by their religion and it was relative notion from the time factor. They followed the

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<sup>17</sup> premathilake, M. article of Sri Lankan Architect , p-53, vol 101, 1993

<sup>18</sup> Canters' theory of the place,



sayings of their holy Koran and the basics of their community is still at the same form past to the present.

The Portuguese way of life-style was more or less different from the way of Muslims. It is further denoted by the statement of Brohier<sup>19</sup> which was cited by Munasinghe as follows; "conquered by the emotions of Spanish folk music, they [the Portuguese] carried this urbanized form of entertainment to all their settlements"<sup>20</sup>. Portuguese spatial arrangement; the plan of fort was significantly dominated by informal squares and crooked streets<sup>21</sup> and they were not in a position to carry out their activities as a permanent basis. Due to their concentration on Catholicism and to acquire the sea trade which was dominated by the Arabs during in Indian Ocean.

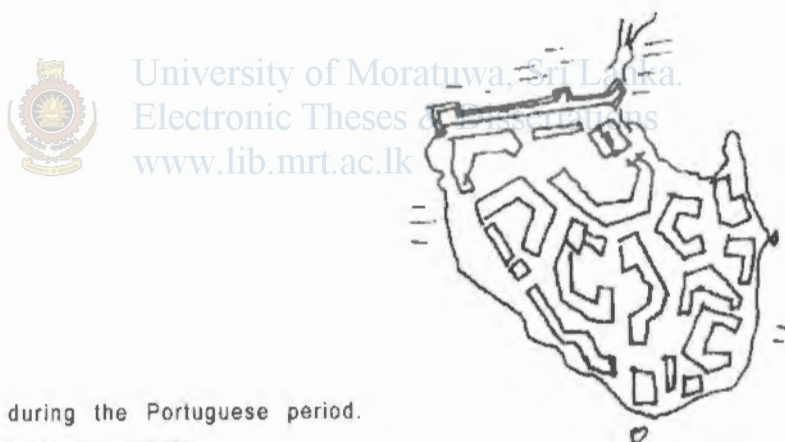


Fig 66: Galle during the Portuguese period.

[Source : Munasinghe, H. – 1998]

As discussed in sub chapter 3:2:1, Portuguese were more attend to recreational activities and the street edge was frequently used for their activities. Bachelor soldiers were more dominant as street users and spatial arrangement was concerned their desires at the first preference. It is further cited by Lalchandra [1993] as; the fort was dominated by

<sup>19</sup> brohier, [1978] p - 27

<sup>20</sup> munasinghe, H. [1998] p - 110

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, p-111

soldiers and social structure was military ranking. It was more a military cantonment than a city.<sup>22</sup> The map of Portuguese fort which given below a work of De resende in 1640<sup>23</sup> further manifested the relationship of Crooked street layout and the formation of the city layout. According to Lewcock [1988] the most embraced feature of the Portuguese dwellings were projected balconies, canopies and open verandahs<sup>24</sup> which were facilitate them for their out door activities.

The Portuguese architecture is still perceived at the *Sudarmalaya* temple at the edge of Rampart Street. Portuguese built their Master Attends house on a higher point of the fort where the black fort is presently locates. The black fort is one of the few remains of the original Portuguese built fabric and Dutch renamed it as Zwort Bastion. Gun powder factory and the ammunition storage were considered as two buildings alongside of the master attendants' house.<sup>25</sup> This area is presently renowned as Queen Street and still dominant with considerably immense built forms.



Fig 67: Galle in the hands of the Dutch  
[Source : Munasinghe, H. – 1998]

Dutch were come into power on the maritime province after Portuguese at the end of 15<sup>th</sup> century AD and they were able to develop a well organized spatial entity in Galle fort. Streets were reshaped in to straight line and

<sup>22</sup> Jalchandra, [1993], p-23

<sup>23</sup> brohier, [1978] p - 124

<sup>24</sup> de silva and beumer, [1988], p-122

<sup>25</sup> munasinghe, [1998], p- 111

land was divided in to quarter system and this was applicable due to the existence of the VOC. Due to the occupation of VOC, for activities were more cater on merchandising and administrative.



Fig68: Galle at the end of Dutch rule

[Source : Munasinghe, H. – 1998]

Dutch were intended to create a web of fortification along the coastal belt of ancient Ceylon and Galle fort was concern as base for their administrative point among Colombo and Jaffna. Projected bastions and the grid pattern street layout were at significant features of those Dutch fortifications. The *pettah* was the initiated during this period as a settlement for outer activities of the fort. Trade, residential purpose of minor working class of the fort and other non European communities were attached to the *pettah*.<sup>26</sup>

The physical character of the street inside fort was consisting of well designed verandahs and sophisticated balconies than Portuguese era. And the most important factor is that Dutch were able to introduce a vernacular tradition to the context. The house which they were designed

<sup>26</sup> refer sub chapter 3:2:3



was a combination of both Dutch and native vernacular traditions. The style of gable and roof had similarities to their roots while the courtyards and the verandah taken from the surrounding context to manipulate the contextual forces [to soothe the climate]. Organization of street was at a considerable stage where the hierarchical order was maintained.



Fig 69: Galle after two colonialisms

[Source : Munasinghe, H. – 1998]



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British were handed over the power of maritime province during 1796 and they were able to take the whole island under their region at 1815. Concentration of Galle fort as a major administration point was shifted to Colombo and significant of Galle fort was undermined by those changes. Most of the interior activities in the fort were shifted out from the fort like elite' houses into suburbs of Galle and few other administrative functions. They further introduced zoning system to the fort based on use of the land. Institutional and residential functions separated each other. Also erections of few building were taken place during the period of British. Anglican Church was built in the premises of court house on Church Street. One of the major changes was the introduction of new gateway instead of old Dutch one.<sup>27</sup> Hierarchical order of Queen Street was

<sup>27</sup> refer sub chapter 3:2:4

undermined by the new entrance and light house street stood as major road after that.

The identity of Galle fort was drastically changed during this period due to rise of non European colonies in the fort premises. Muslim and Sinhalese merchants were awarded a chance to acquire land in fort for their residential use. They further add their identity to the place by manipulating few elements in the physical fabric. Activities which were taken place in streets were changed according to their preference. Mosques temples and other relative buildings was rose instead of churches. This diversification in the urban space impact to change the character which was completely differs to the past.

British brought over few Chinese workers to their vegetable farms in *pettah* and it was renowned as China Garden [cheena koratuwa]<sup>28</sup> after that. But architectural evidence of their dwelling cannot be proved by any tangible evidence but few scholars have been written about their existence in *pettah*. Instead of that considerable Muslim community lived in the *pettah*. Once again their way of lives were expressed by manipulation of facades in their dwellings and but the street layout was existed same during the Dutch. British further add few commercial building and furnished the *pettah* and Talbot town by providing public water and electricity respectively in 1911 and 1926.

Fig 70,71: dilapidated state of china garden



<sup>28</sup> Sinhalese term for the China Garden – refer *galu puranaya* by Prof. Bandusena Gunasena

Street layout was never changed after the Dutch except few modifications and the introducing of the new Colombo – Matara road impacted to the fort and *pettah* to be apart. But activities in the street layout were changed and the character of the street as changed with relevance to that.

Galle fort was developed a splendid image in the history after gone through several hands of different textures. The richness of the built fabric and social content are evident to manifest the benchmarks of the history.

### 3:5 Effects of Franchised Economy on Street Usage.

Free market economic proposals were taken into consideration at the end of 1970'. It impacted enormous changes to the socio-economic structure as well as to the built environment.



Fig 72: changing of the degree of land use end of 1990

[Source: Munasinghe, H. – 1998].



The attitude of the society was deviated to the western way of thinking and the locality was overcome by the international styles. This was particularly obvious in the built environment during the decade of 1980. Most of the buildings which arose during that period were flourished with full glasses and steel. The built environment appeared to be the same. Character of any street of that period was similar to each other and legibility of the urban space was at negligible state.

Galle fort was in a state of neglect by the whole community due to trend of urbanization. Most of the important buildings were taken out from the fort into the near suburbs. The erection of Galle urban council was taken place in the 1956. Concentration of public activities in the out of fort effected as a negative factories to the richness of the urban places in fort. Most of the abandoned buildings were taken by government departments and authorities due to the availability of free space with a less rental. The activity patten once again changed in to the institutional during 1980.



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Fig 73: defined administrational spaces with less public interaction – court square, Galle

The residential quarters of early period was remained as it is, but most of their residents were shifted to the suburbs of Colombo. They concenter their ancestors houses as an emblem of wealth. The density of the population was less when comparing to the past due to the migration, but it not significant in the areas of the Muslims due to their concentrated

population was less when comparing to the past due to the migration, but it not significant in the areas of the Muslims due to their concentrated living habitat. It is significant to mention the different character of each dwelling of Muslim and Sinhalese. Sinhalese were more into their introverted life style where Muslims tend to be in the road as a way of their lives. Most of facades in the early Dutch period dwellings were subjected to change according to their own preferences as well as to acquire certain ratio of privacy.



Fig 74: screening; the street [ or ] dwelling , Leyn Baan Street

Muslims add terries work, steel grill patterns and even timber windows in-between Dutch columns in the verandah. They used these screen to maintain their distance with the road while have a piece of space to protrude their eyes on to the street. Sinhalese way of responding to the street was completely difference to the way of Muslims. They covered their façade by adding few walls of fixed timber frames. More or less street became dead place when entering to the Sinhalese territory. This was more significant in the areas of middle income residence. Low income dwelling were located in the Peddler Street and those area are still alive and express their richness in the built fabric.



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**Case studies**  
Relationship of street character and its' activity pattern

Chapter Four



## **Study on the Relationship between Streetscape Character and the Activity Pattern.**

### **4:1 Basis for the Selection of Case Studies**

Architectural references of Dutch and British periods are significantly seen in most of cities in Sri Lanka. Among that few cities remain as benchmarks of the Dutch architecture character. Important to notify that these cities are subjected to develop under several influences and had gone by more than five hundred years of history. Such development is essential to in terms of analyzing the evolution pattern of the city formation and its character. Matara, Galle, Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, Trinkomalee are few examples which possess their live ness in the contemporary period. Among that Jaffna and Trinkomale having logistic problems of accessibility and Colombo fort is less of diversity in activity pattern. Matara, Galle and Kandy are at a notable state for the case study, but this study is more focusing on the Galle fort due to the reliability of its evolution pattern as compressive manifestation.



Fig:75,76– impressions of colonial architecture in Sri Lanka. Colombo fort, Cargill's & millers' building

The cohesiveness of the Galle fort is obtained by its street layout. Ultimately the arrangement of each street having reliability to contain certain activity pattern which if further elaborate its richness and the legibility as a responsive urban space. The hierarchical order of each street was existed from the initiation of the fort and the research will focus on existing condition of the street character and its relationships with the activity pattern. The selected case studies are Light House Street, Church Street, Queen Street, Layn Bann Street and Peddler Street within the fort premises which are possess different activity pattern and consisting of richness in the hierarchical order.

Main Street of the pettah has been taken as comparison to the major case studies to manifest the different evolution pattern in same context but with different parameters.<sup>1</sup> The land use pattern, arrangement of plots and physical features of facades were consider when analyzing the qualitative aspect of the each street character. Records from the past travelers to the fort, manuscripts of archeological evidence, historical maps, photographs and façade studies of the archeological department were taken to establish the street character of the past.

#### **4:2 Socio-Physical Features as a Stepping Stone for the Case Study**

The collection of socio – physical data is important to construct a basis for the each study. The following subchapters will focus on historical reference, social character of the contemporary period, physical features of each streetscape and the existing activity pattern.

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<sup>1</sup> Fort has been classified as a world heritage and any other construction is prohibited with in the fortification but not applying to pettah [china garden].



#### 4:2:1 Historical Reference of Each Streetscape

The street layout of the fort and its formation was discussed in chapter three in a comprehensive manner.

##### Queen Street

Consider as the major street among the hierarchical order of street layout during the ruling period of Dutch. Not only the Dutch but also the Portuguese had their important buildings along this street.<sup>2</sup>

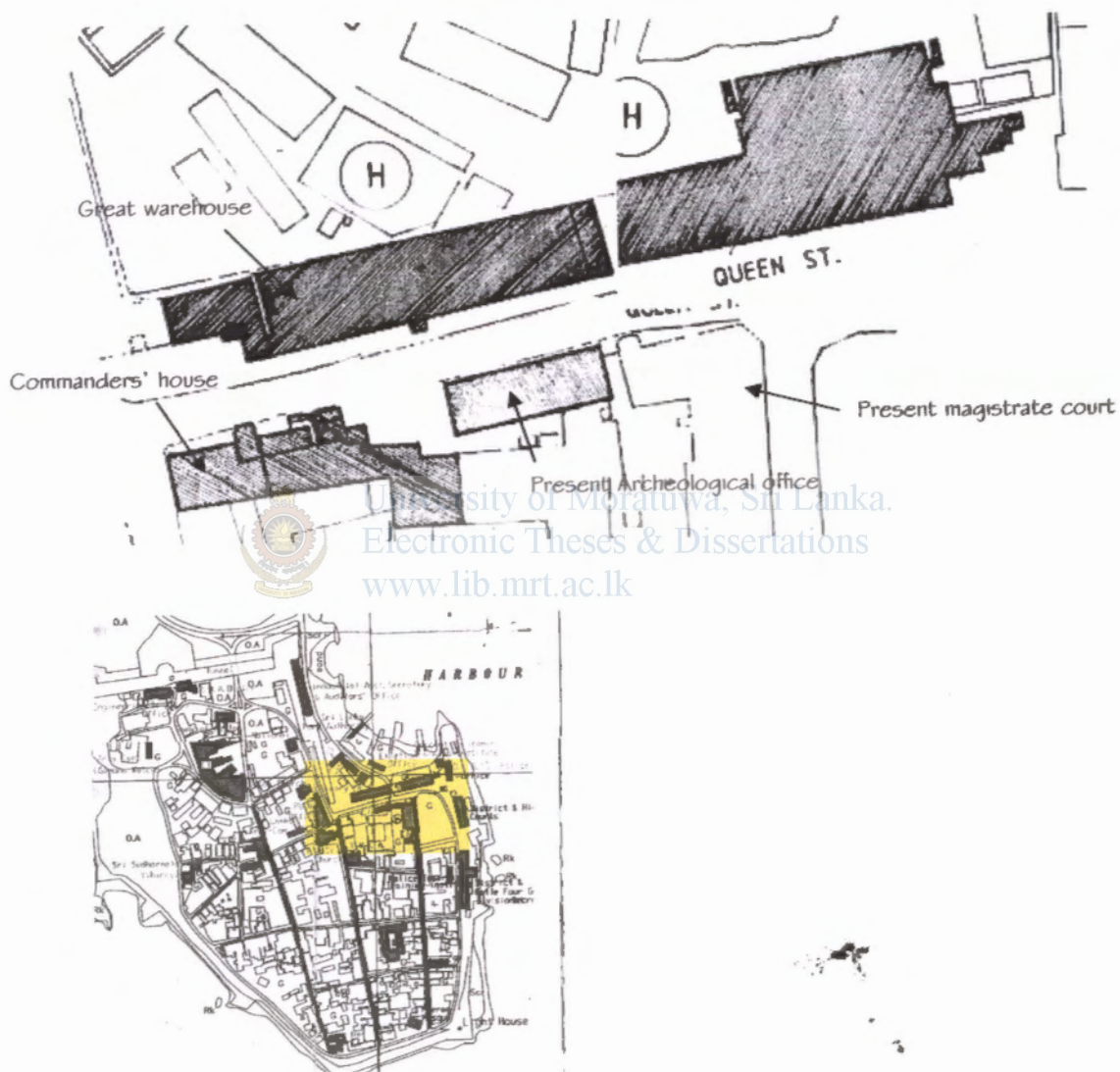


Fig: 77- Map of Queen Street and location in the fort

<sup>2</sup> Refer sub chapter 3:2:2





Fig:78,79 - Scenes of the most dominant feature on Queen Street – Great Warehouse

This streets' importance was further enhanced by the erection of massive warehouse at the eastern side of the street around 1669. Inside the gate of this great ware house, two doors to the storerooms bear the year 1671. The building completed in 1676 and housed the strong- room and several stores downstairs and sappan wood, cowries, provisions were stored at the left side of the building. Ships' equipments, salt, pepper was at other side of the store while upstairs left for Sri Lankan and south Indian cinnamon to be kept dry and safe.

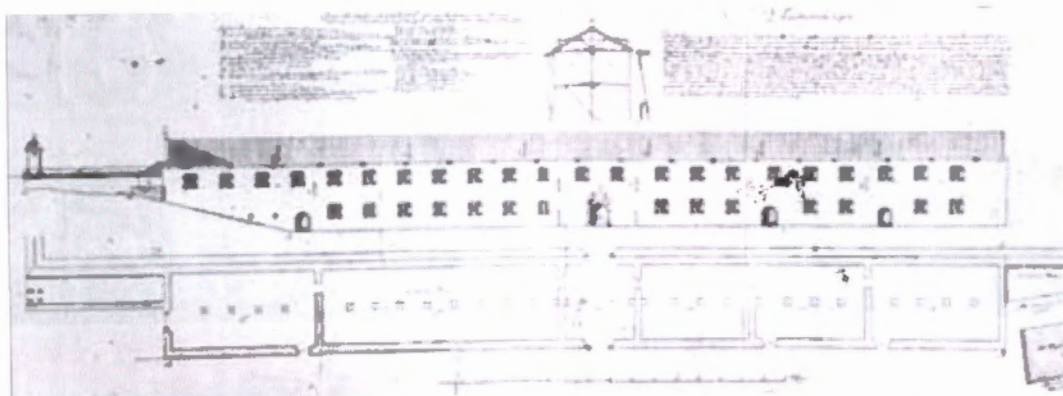


Fig 80 – drawing of the warehouse and the physical entity of queen street

[source; www.wikipedia.com]

The next important built form is commander's house at the junction on Church Street. The commander was the head of the Galle commandment [between the Benthota and Walawe Rivers]. Another commander was residing in Jaffna while top of the VOC hierarchy stood the governor in Colombo. The house erected in 1683 and balconies and ground floor columns were furnished with Victorian architecture during the period of the British.<sup>3</sup> This building was taken by Volker's & company during British period and they further extended their automobile functions to the near land next to the present archeological office building on Queen Street. Both side of Queen Street is linking to Leyn Bann Street and Church Street with extensive open spaces.

### Church Street

One of the second most important street among the secondary streets in the hierarchical order during the Dutch period. In the Dutch period name was "Kerkstraat" given after the church which was pulled down in the 17<sup>th</sup> century AD. At the beginning of the Dutch period they had their reformed services in the great warehouse at the most western part of the first floor. It is still demonstrate by a same religious symbol at the gable end in both buildings. Dutch selected this existing location for their church due to the highest place with in the fortification.

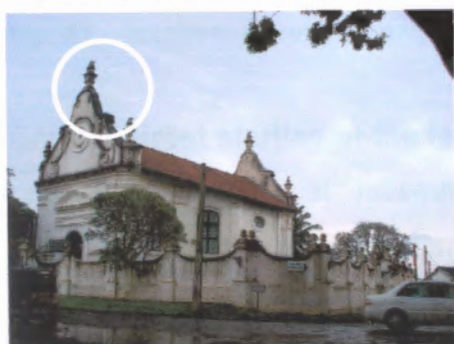


Fig 81,82 - similarity of two gable walls, Dutch reformed church and the great warehouse

<sup>3</sup> refer subchapter 3:2:3

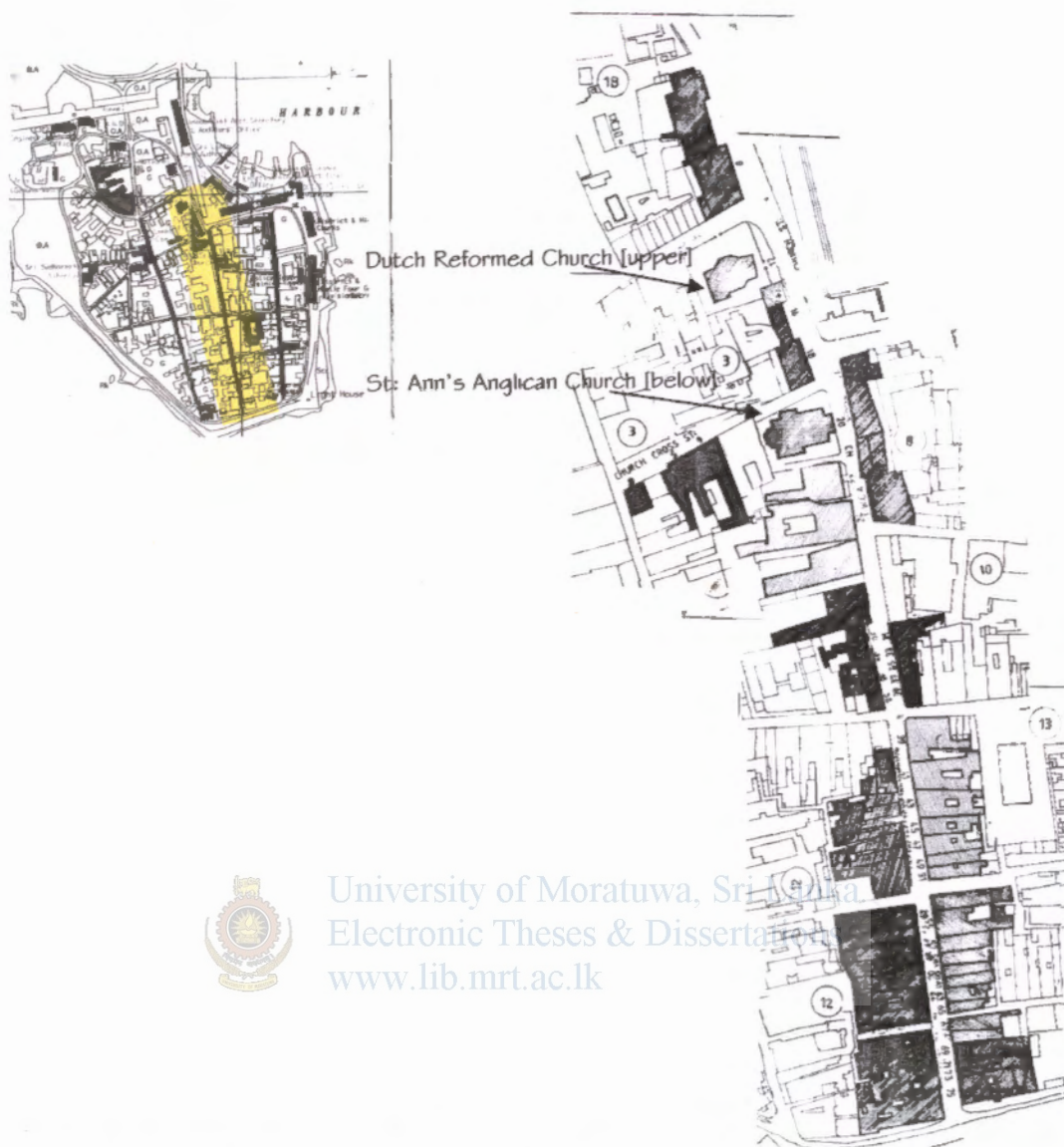


Fig: 83 – location, street plan and dominant built forms of church street

Church Street starting at the left side of the Dutch reformed church where present archeological museum and New Oriental Hotel is locating. Present museum was built around 1656 and used as a military ware house. British built their Anglican church in 1871 on the premises of Dutch court house one of the manuscripts of church reveals that gallows of the court house might have been situated where the present altar is now standing. Most of the important buildings were located along Church Street during the period of Dutch.



## Light House Street

Light House Street became so important during the period of British after the inauguration of new entrance way in 1873 instead of old entrance. This is almost locating in the centre of the fort and ultimately become a significant feature from the macro context. The Dutch period name was "Zeeburgstraat" or "Middlepuntstraat" after the old lighthouse which burnt down in 1936 at the spot of tile Flag-staff. In 1940 British built a new lighthouse at Utreeth Bastion and the street name was kept unchanged to the present.

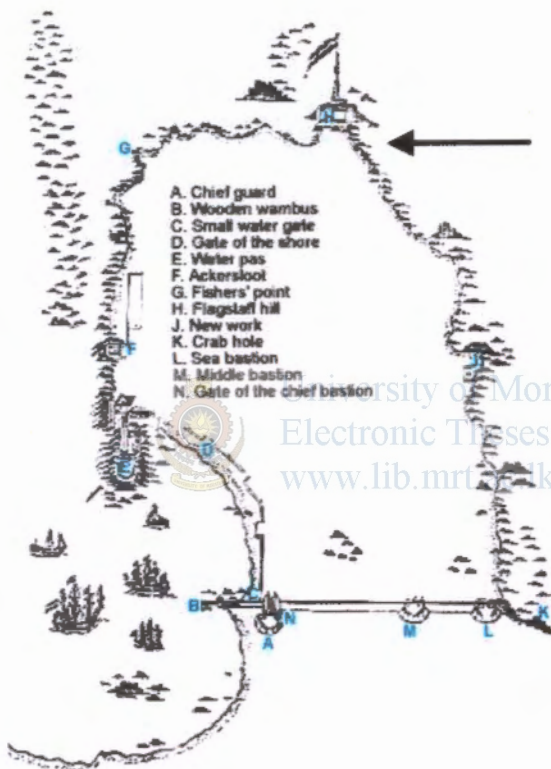


Fig 85: Map of Galle by Adriaen de Leeuw, 1659, about improvements to the defenses of Galle with the illustration of flag-staff point [circled]

The main entrance and the street were awarded more prominence after the erection of a new clock tower on the fortification in 1881 for the commemoration of surgeon T.D. Anthonies. Identity and the character of greatness were archived by the initiation of extensive open space just after the new entrance and towards to Light House Street. Two institutional buildings are locating along this street such as Southlands Girl College and St. Anne's boys school.

## Lyn Baan Street

Different kind of activity pattern is existed and variety of activities is still seen in the street. The Dutch period name was "Oude Lijnbannstraat" which means the new rope walk street. There were plenty of fishermen and rope makers on the side of the street and coir rope was made for local use. There was a coir factory at the bare next to the mansion museum and it was demolished at the end of 1950's.

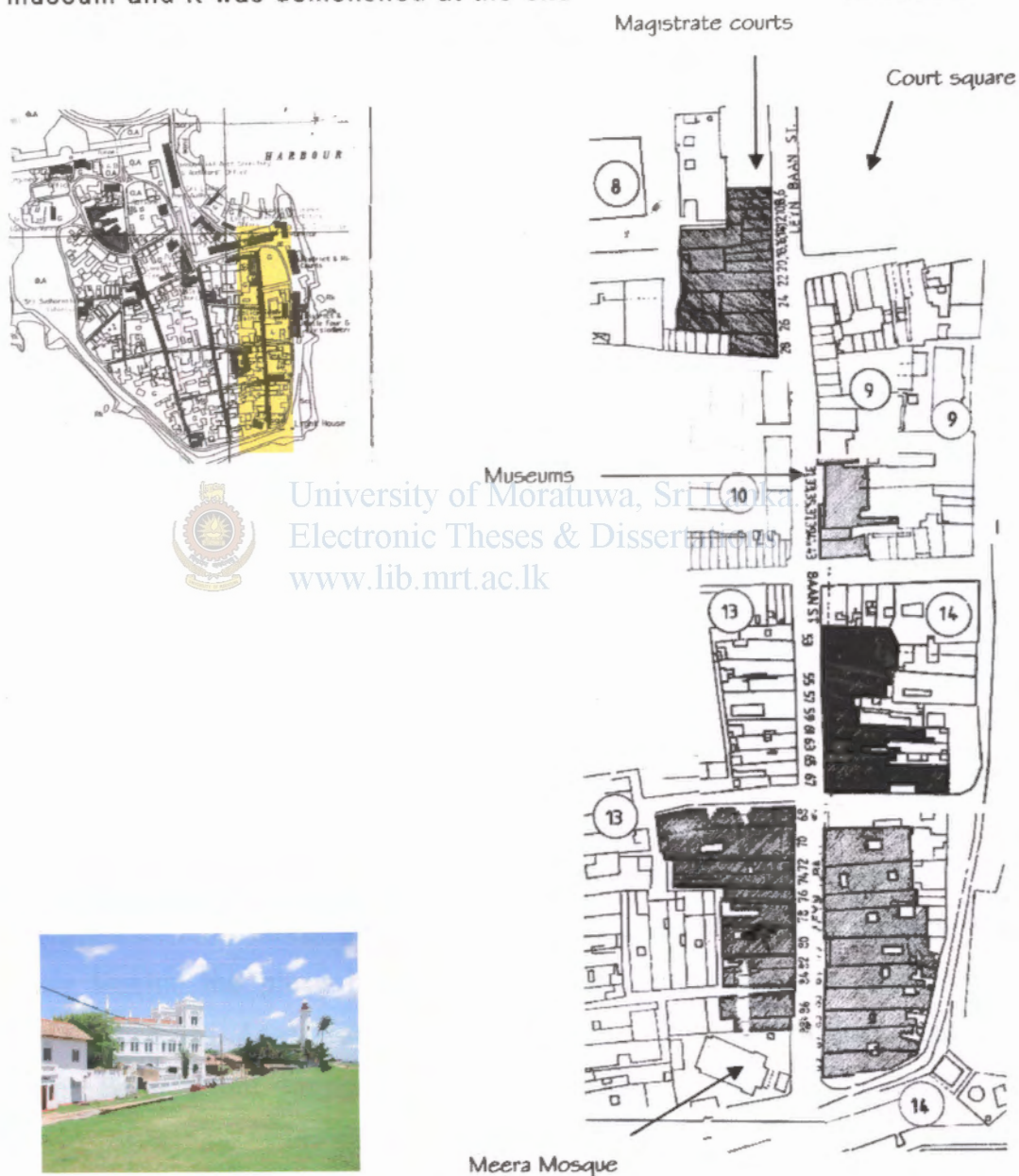


Fig86: location of lyn baan street & Meera Mosque

Considerable amount of Muslim community were there from the Dutch period. There were 94 Muslims and 16 Muslim slaves were lived within the fortification according to the census report prepared by the VOC in 1760. Meera mosque was arisen like a gem in the crown in 1904. The date is still notified on the front façade of the mosque and there is another manifestation about the previous mosque during the period of Dutch at the same place. But Muslims were not permit to build any religious place with in the fortification during the period of Portuguese.

Lyen Baan Street is starting from the present court square and the place was used for rice stores and carpenters' workshops during the Dutch. At the end of the road is consisting of several ethnic dwellings of Muslims. The features of the façade are expressing their response to the street in a very significant manner.

### **Peddler Street**

Most of the merchants and low-income communities were lived during the colonial period and still this is a place for their account. This street lies along the north south axis of the fortification and conceder as service road which links other secondary roads such as Hospital Street, lyen Bann Street, Church Street, light house street and Rampart Street in comprehensively.

The Dutch period name was Moorse Kramerstraat which means the Moorish peddler street after the profession of small Muslim retailers. Not only Muslim the place had given roof for chetties and moors for their retail business. Apart from that horse stable was located at the junction of Lyen Bann Street during the period of British. The plot allocation of the units of stable still exists in the built forms of the low in come communities.



The function was changing in to the residential within the same physical paradigms with few alterations in the spatial environment and the character of the place changed into a residential typology.

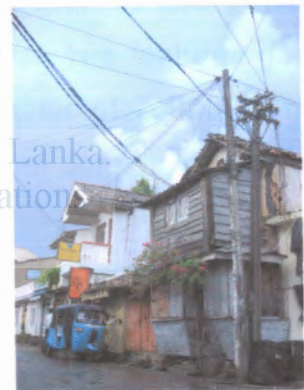
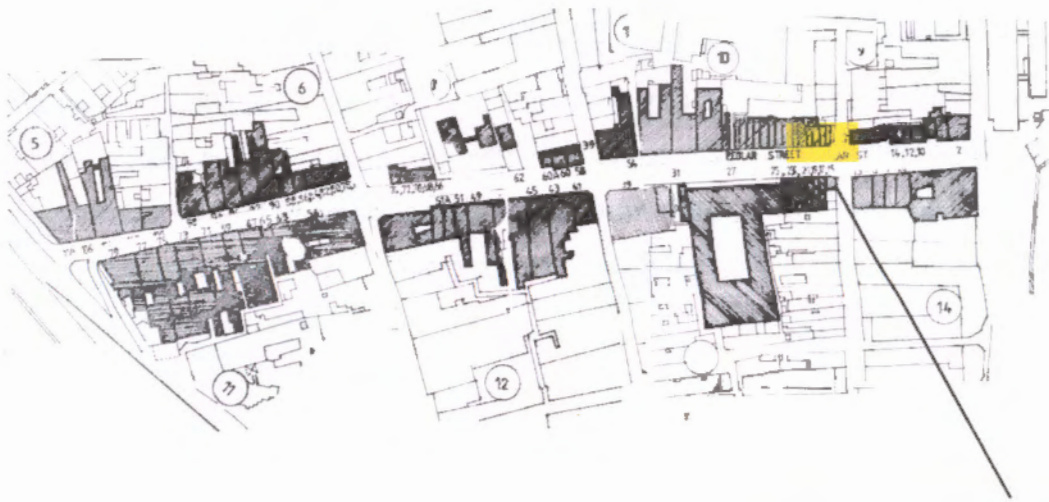


Fig 87: location of Peddler Street & impression of street

There are few massive built forms locate with the quarter no 13 and 12. Harcourt building one of the largest built forms with in the fortification used for industrial purposes and it was converted to an administration function during the post independence period. Few government departments such as health, social service sectors are presently using a quarter of the building but most part of the building is still available for use. There is another building at the corner of Church Street and Peddler Street which was celebrated its use as benchmarks in the Sri Lankan history.

The building was initiated for a commercial function and then it changed in to the institutional category during the inauguration period of Mahinda College of Galle. The school hosted their primary classes in this building during their foremost period. And later on functions of this building turn into industrial category which furnished a named after the use. It was renowned as the Galle printers and few years after the building were abandoned due to taken off with its functions. Now building is fairly conserved with the implementation of star hotel tilted the same tag as "Hotel Galle Printers". This can be notifying as an example for the changing of the street character.

#### **4:2:2 The City Layout as a Grid Line for the Location of street.**

Most of the Dutch forts in Ceylon had two features such as grid pattern street layout and the bastion type fortification. Those two features gave an especially identity as well as expressive character of military. This arrangement of street layout brought a decent and formal manner of spatial progression to the fort. And those crooked streets<sup>4</sup> which dominated in Portuguese period began to be straight and simplified during the Dutch. It further defined the land extend into few quarters and each quarter tend defined by its specific activity pattern and the character.



Fig 88: - Aerial view from the sky  
[source- Dominc Sansoni]

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<sup>4</sup> refer sub chapter 3:2:2



Streets which among the selected case studies are originated during the period of Dutch. The street name was purely evaluated from its function and the original names were Dutch then British add their own wording for streets.

Queen Street was the most prominent and major street during the Dutch while Lyen Baan Street, Church Street and Light House Street were among secondary streets. Peddler Street was conceder as a service street during the Dutch where it was given a less prominence in the hierarchical order. Each street stand like a different form of entities and expressive character is varying. The qualitative analysis of the case study will focus on the selected segments of each street where a significant activity pattern is existing.

#### **4:2:3 Physical Features of a Streetscape**

Galle is all about the Dutch. One of the magnificent architectural pieces of the earth not only style of their own but it is a great combination of the memories of Dutch and the indigenous technology, materials from Ceylon. Most of the Portuguese buildings were demolished, altered and modified during the Dutch and the socio political manifestations were already mentioned in chapter three as well. Most of the building technologies during the Dutch and there after was influenced by the Portuguese. It is further strengthen by the linguistic vocabulary<sup>5</sup> of the Sinhalese which still in maintaining at the present.

During the period of their occupation there were two kinds of spatial structure was formulated. Street type building and massive built forms with large extended landscape such as churches, governors' houses, hospitals etc. this was fairly well manifested in the Galle fort, Matara and

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<sup>5</sup> few meanings of Sinhalese terms which brought from Portuguese *uluhavw*- door frame, *kaparau* - plaster, *janela* - window, *saraneru* - ironmongery



Jaffna fort. The architectural period of Dutch could be defined with three major eras such as first period: 1640 -1720, middle period: 1720-1770 and final period: 1770-1796.<sup>6</sup> particularly few built elements were subjected to changed during these three periods such as windows, door, window casements etc. this evolution in the built elements impacted to the change of the physical character of the street as well due to the close relationship of the street and the dwelling.

Windows and door frames were in the foremost period was much larger and the openings were slightly small but well decorated with large ironmongeries. Use of glass was at minimal state except in few buildings, "glass rarely used until the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century except rarely in a few grand or important buildings. The windows were open, sometimes glazed with oiled cloth or paper or possibly with oyster shell imported from the east."<sup>7</sup>

The door frame was fairly well crafted with moldings of concave – convex silhouettes. The front lintel of the door frame was elaborated with few emblems of VOC, cock, the construction dates etc. the fanlight was one of the few elements which they used for the manipulation of the light into the building and it was decorated by wood carvings, terris work or even with glass.

Columns on the verandah were changed into much larger and masculine forms during the Dutch. Portuguese verandah might be not fully open like Dutch due to the existence of larger columns than Dutch. This scenario was predicted by lewcock<sup>8</sup> from tracings of the existing Portuguese architectural examples from several locations of India. then character of

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<sup>6</sup> lewcock [1998] p-172

<sup>7</sup> ibdb - 173

<sup>8</sup> ibdb - 173

the verandah was slightly changed into more Georgian and regency styles during the British, the best example can be notify in the commanders residence on Queen Street. The evolution of its form during three colonial periods was cited in chapter three and the verandah was the element which crucially changed at all. The pattern of the columns, the distance and the materials were changed in terms of gain more grandeur and richness to its character.

The double sash type window was the fashionable element in the facades during the middle period and door frames were fascinated with door panels which elaborately shaped into a concavo-convex silhouette in true Baroque style. Buildings became higher and front features of the façade had become more elegant and fashionable higher columns with slender in proportion to the previous was fairly seen in late of the Dutch. The front façade of the Dutch museum in Colombo manifest the features in fairly good manner.



Fig: 89– higher columns were used to create a elegant character. [Source- lewcock]

The influence of French style was notable during the final period of the Dutch due to the presence of French trainer of VOC. And due to these reasons Dutch architecture was formulate a pure form than in the beginnings. The built forms which is existing in Galle fort at the present is a combination of Dutch, British as well as Moorish styles. French casement windows began to be introduced. Narrow, side hung vertical

sashes opening in pairs replace the large sliding lower sash of the characteristics Dutch style.<sup>9</sup>

British were more concentrated on massive built forms and more or less in public building than mansions. The use of arch was different in mansions, public building with their churches. The pointed Gothic arch was more frequently used in many churches the pure Victorian style was elaborated in even in the Anglican Church in the fort premises. The door panels were perfectly rectangular, with sometimes a plain panel face with two or three head moldings around the edge, sometimes bolection moldings were placed over the edges of the panel instead of fielding it.<sup>10</sup> As mentioned in chapter three British were moved out from the fortification in – terms of searching large extended land plots. The influence of the British architecture could be seen in few Dutch mansions as well. Alterations and few modifications had been plugged into the original built form of Dutch. That was not fairly happened inside the fort except the demolition of gable to acquire more anglicized character.



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#### **4:2:4 Activity Pattern as a Determine Factor to the Social Character**

The social character with the fort was a production of few components, such as ethnic character, activity pattern, political order, economics states etc. activity pattern and the ethnic character is still significant in the formulation of street character. Sinhalese and Muslims are among the major racial group while few burgers and recently encountered foreigners are among the inhabitants of the fort.

The richness of the variation in the activity pattern can be notified within the fort while china garden exist only residential and commercial as land use. At the beginning of the journey towards to Church Street is dominant

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<sup>9</sup> lewcok [1998] p-175

<sup>10</sup> ibdb -154



with religious activities while it changes into commercial functions at the middle segment with few hotels and office buildings. Most of streets are ending with residential activity routine but most of the buildings have changed their function into recreation category according to the demand form visitors to the fort.

Lyen Bann Street is starting with court square and it is important to notice that most of the dwellings have subsequently change into commercial land use by allocating their verandahs into the functions which relate to court. Such as temporary lawyers' offices, communications and few retail shops etc. the court square is locating in the middle of Queen Street and the Lyen Bann Street and further defined the character with built forms of magistrate court, the high court building of Galle and the great ware house. The functions of the court square have been extended to the Lyen Bann Street as well.



Fig: 90, 91- responsiveness to the demand of context – lyen bann street

The variety of activity pattern is seen during the progression of the street. The journey is ending with few dwellings of Muslim community and the most impressive part of the sequence is arriving at the fortification with the appearance of the mosque, one of the most remarkable built forms of the fort. The character which relate to the Muslims culture is expressive form the street character.

Light louse street is consisting of few administrative building at the beginning while move onto institutional land use pattern with few schools and rest is allocate for residential use. The percentage of houses which forwarded to the foreigners has been increased within this street. The morphology has been changed due to the introduction of fairly different mode of activity pattern to the fort. The façade of each house is well preserved and impression of the scene is going back to the original Dutch period.



Fig: 92,93,94 – rejuvenation of Dutch dwellings but social layer have been dismissed

Above houses elaborate the above scenario in a well defined manner. But it is important to notify that most of these house unoccupied during the most part of the year. The foreigners who brought these house are visiting only once in a year for their recreation. The effect of been along and empty with out human interaction of these built forms contribute a negative impression to the social balance of the community. The physical character is well preserved and the social layer was neglected. Due to these reasons viability of the verandah have been undermined with a lost space but few fascinating physical features of the original Dutch period. Not only the façade but also most parts of the interior had effected by the involvement of foreigners. The court yard which was most activated place during the Dutch and even with Muslims is now bearing with exquisite artifacts and been more simplified with effect of minimalist architectural

language. When comparing to other streets Light House Street kept a prominence with the influence of foreigners.



Fig 95,96- comparison of two court yards – recently renovated with Muslim house on light house street

Changing of activity pattern of Church Street is more tend to responsive manner than in light house street. Few building were taken for the consideration of recreational activities as well as defined commercial activities such star hotels, boutique shops, cafeterias, jewellery shops etc. the manner of using the verandahs is at a comprehensive stage when comparing to the renovated houses in Light House Street. This is fairly manifesting in the fort hotel premises and the elephant walk [boutique shop] and the using of activities which further enhances the legibility as an urban space. Density of the uses had been increased due to these modifications and the place itself acquired richness with the effect of recently introduced activity patterns.



#### 4:3 Relationship of Activity Pattern of the Street and Its' Expressive Character

The fortified city of Galle has been hosted more than five hundred years of history. The variety of conceptual integration of different regions possessed the same physical entity for their occupation with few changes, alterations and additions in the spatial content. Evolution pattern of the physical context was suddenly frozen down due to the declaration of Galle fort as a world heritage by the UNISCO in 1988. But socio-economic pattern was subsequently evaluated due to the fascination of economy. Also the activity routine was subsequently changed due to these reasons. The *pettah* [lately the China Garden] was not listed in the category of world heritage and it does continue of the evolution under threats of general socio-economic factors.

The built environment of the *pettah* which was the product of Dutch and lately British, has been undermined by the popular building forms of the contemporary period. The grid pattern street layout and the plot division is still maintaining in here while colonial built forms were subdividing, modifying and also demolishing to acquire more lands to the satisfaction of their requirements.

Street can be defined a place rather than a tunnel of transportation. The components of a place are concepts, physical properties and activities of the particular place according to the definition of Canter. The consolidation of the character of a place and its relations to the activity routine was comprehensively discussed in chapter one and two. The qualitative analysis of case study is focusing on the relationship between the street activity pattern and its expressive character. Particularly places were selected from the general street layout and then evaluate its physical properties of street walls. As an example court square at Lyen Bann Street, Galle Fort Hotel at Church Street, informal residential quarters at Peddler street etc.

### Leyn Bann Street at quarter no 8 & 9

The entrance way to Leyn Baan Street is lying alongside of the court square at one side and magistrate court at another side. The court square was used as a medical garden and magistrate court was used as storage of rice and spices during the Dutch. Court activities are forming a catalytic environment to the context which further extended towards to Leyn Bann Street and impacted to develop a particular socio- economic character according to its preference. This is the only street within the context which allows such an adaptation of activities.

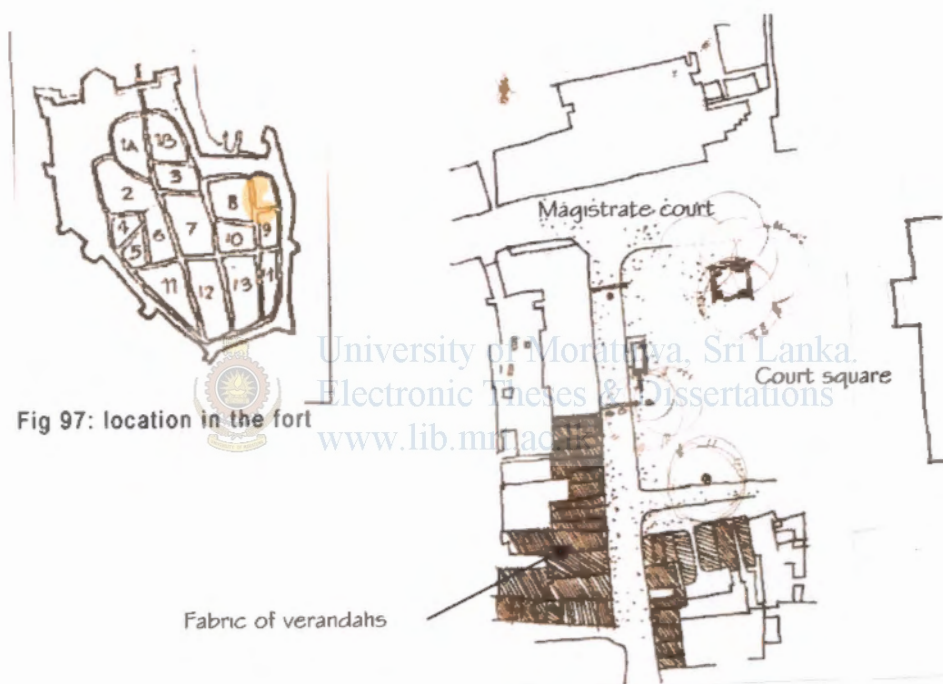


Fig 98: location of magistrate court fabric of verandahs

The activity pattern had been penetrate in a considerable time period and consolidated a certain character which cannot be separate from it. The street hosting an adaptation of informal activities such as temporary lawyers' offices, communications, retail stationary shops, restaurants etc and most of the verandahs have been renovated to suite above functions. Thus verandahs of those houses were no more belong to the households at all. The verandah and most probably the front room is full of activities and been rushed with arrival of activities

which related to the court in most of the day time except in paydays and public holydays.

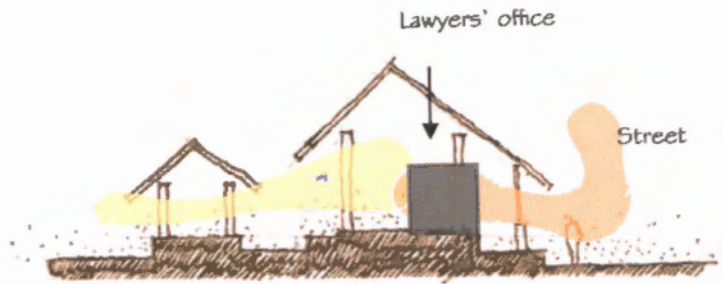


Fig 98: private- public relationship of the dwelling with street

The private-public ratio of these houses had been slightly deformation due to these changes in the environment and public activities have been encroached inhabitance's private space as well. The street character of this segment had defined by a specific function which has a particular discipline and way of pattern still exists. This is a commercial space; it is hard to notify any billboards or signboards which are always unique to such a place. But it is full of identical types of black and white hoardings in every façade of verandahs.



Fig 99,100: change of the facades according to the demand of the context.



The verandahs have been converted to distinctive spatial character where is nobody allowed to it without prior permission. The character of this place is further enriched and accompanied by the environment of the court complex.

The overall character of Leyn Baan Street which had during the Dutch had been changed into a specific commercial character in subsequent manner.



Fig 100 : catalytic activity pattern penetrate towards to leyen bann street.



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### Leyn Baan Street at quarter 9 & 10

Few museums have been dominated this street segment and a particular character was defined from few years back. The famous Galle mansion museum is locating in one side of the street while two more are left at the opposite.

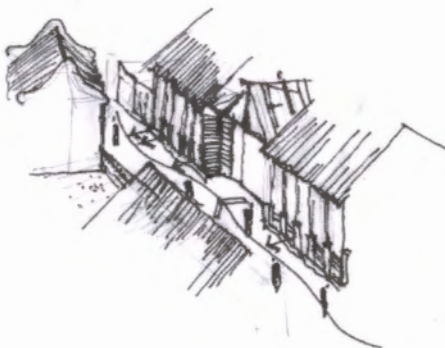


Fig 101: composition of built form as an exhibition entity

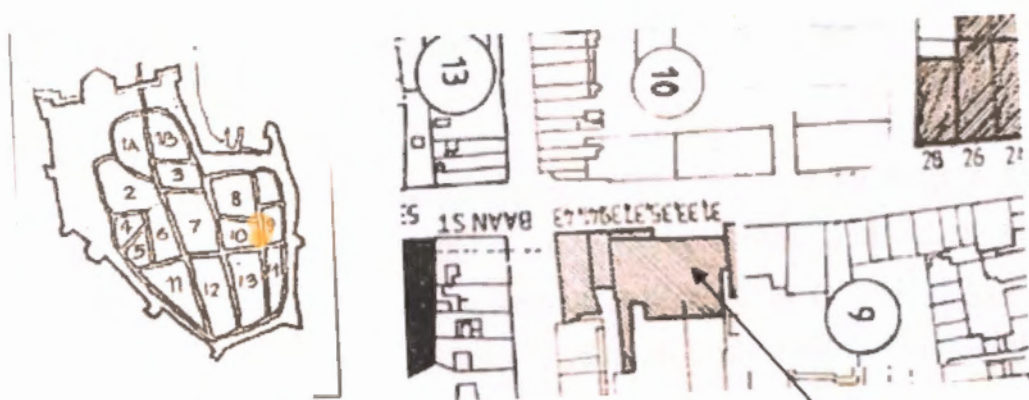


Fig 102: location in the fort and segment of the street' Galle mansion museum

This segment can be taken as an example of rejuvenating the character of a place. Present owner of Galle mansion museum is Muslim entrepreneur who is interesting in preserving heritage and initiated this conservation in the end of 1980's. The following drawing shows the dilapidated condition of the building prior to conserve and discussions are still remaining about his way of conserving.



Fig 103 : before [conservation] after

The attraction form tourists have been increased due to the concentration of museum activities with this street segment and purely a celebration of Dutch architecture. Verandahs are more or less kind of exhibition place of antiques and no more social entity existing except those who are visiting to this place as a purpose of recreation. Few houses which located at the next to these museums have a less responsive to the built environment mainly due to loss of their privacy in verandahs due to the behavior of those visitors to these museums.

Lyan Baan Street at quarter 14 & 8 and Church Street at quarter 12 & 13.

Both of these street segments are consisting of a similar pattern of social entity and the commercial character is subsequently changed into residential during the progression path towards to end of Lyan Baan Street. The end of the journey through this street is elaborated by the emergence of the Meera Mosque which standing like gem on the crown. Pure white façades standing against the green promenade and still remain as a landmark to the context.



Fig : 103 location in the fort & meera mosque

The orientation of the mosque is quite contrasting due to its axial organization towards to their holly direction of Mecca. Majority of inhabitants around these streets are Muslims and their life pattern is concentrating towards to the mosque. It's important to notify the creation of the sense of community within this particular place and it is further strengthen by the appearance of few related buildings of their own culture. Such as Arabic School and Boys' hostel [late Makan Marker house] on church street, Muslim Cultural Association on Rampart Street. Gathering of Muslim community and their related activities are further enhancing due to the existence of the green promenade next to the sea.



The entire place combined together and forms a gathering place not only for Muslims but also creates a universal place for gather. Sea breeze, the emergence of light house and the flag staff point demarcate the territory of this place where built fabric of Rampart Street formed a backdrop for these activities.



Fig 104: arrangement of the physical environment and activity pattern

The activity pattern of this area was predominantly dominated by the major activity of the mosque thus it provides a certain space for leisure activities at the promenade. Visual impact of the mosque, religious activity patters which dominate by the daily routine of their holly prayers as well as the echoes standing as elements of this place. Also characters of the residential areas are important to notify due to the existence of the sense of privacy while maintaining a certain sense of community with their paradigm. The street within this segment is dedicating as a place of playing, eating, gossiping and less of transportation activities. Public spaces are already encroached by their own way of living and the street character formulates an expression of residential sense which is unique feature on both

streets. Façades in most of their dwellings adopted certain physical ambiences which express their response to the street. Few are covered with trellis work, permanent windows, steel grill pattern, wooden poles etc. it's important to note the different in the responsiveness of two ethnic groups to the same physical component [street].

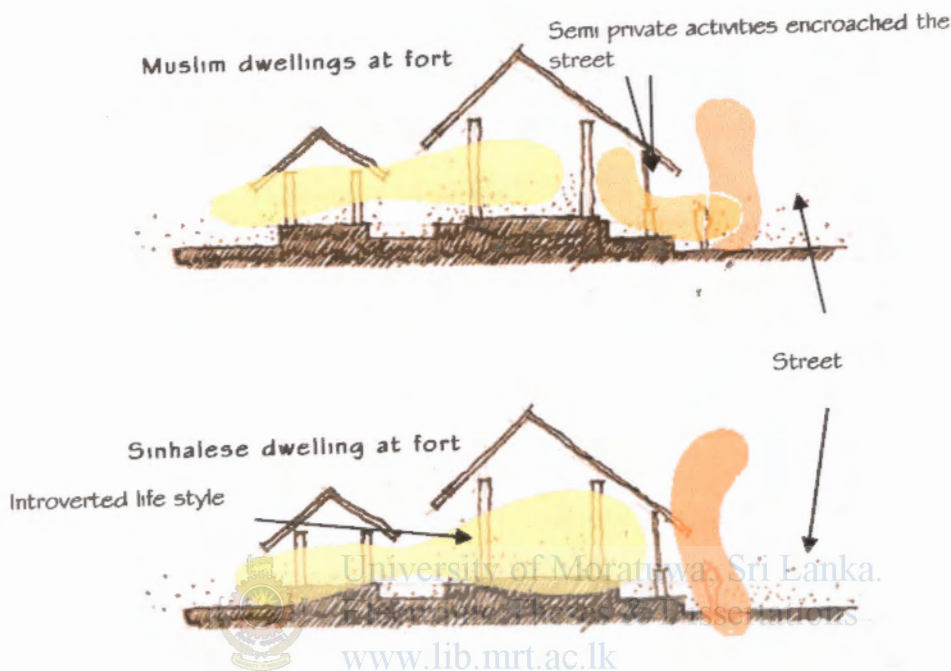


Fig 104 A : comparison of social attitude of two racial groups about their way of life

A comparison of the façade study is given below which has further explained the manipulations of the original Dutch façades. Majority among Sinhalese families are having an introverted life style where most of Muslims are practicing an extroverted way of life. Verandahs of Muslims houses are frequently open to the street where as verandahs are hardly visible in Sinhalese houses. They already covered their verandahs permanently with bricks, wooden panels etc. The expressive character of this street segment is a residential character which is unique due to existence of a particular way of life and the activity pattern of their day-to-day life was strongly impact to elaborate the given character.



## Queen Street

This was considered as major street during the Dutch period and most of prominent activities such as commanders' house, gun point at zwart bastion, assistance house and the great ware house were lay alongside of this street.<sup>1</sup> The street character was more dominant and grandeur during the Dutch. Then it was subsequently undermined during the British. The street progression is driven to the top of the pinnacle of the fort where the most important feature [Church Square] exists. The monolithic built fabric of great ware house is further enhancing the impotency of church square.

The introduction of new gate way have been changed the character of the fort subsequently. The character which was defined by the previous gateway was rather a military and defensive and it was further elaborated by the physical character of the great ware house. The spatial environment which formulate by the new gateway is more towards to the celebration of British power and their region. The toleration of the scale & proportion in the built form with relation to human scale is playing a vital role in terms of elaborating the character.

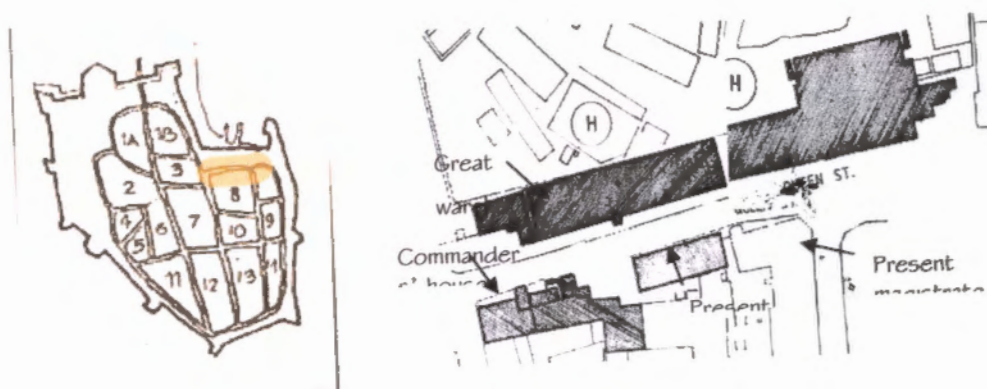


Fig 105: location in the fort and the composition of built forms

<sup>1</sup> Refer historical reference of Queen Street.



Few modern functions have been implied to existing buildings which further create negligence to Queen Streets' unique character by destroying the functional order of the street. Commanders' house was taken by a private company & adjoined land was converted into an auto mobile junkyard.

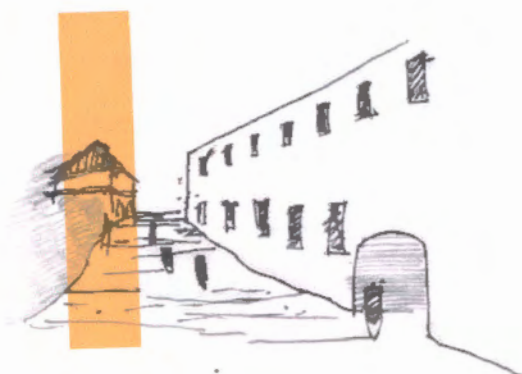


Fig 106: relationship of the commander's house and the great warehouse

Most spaces of the warehouse have been neglected due to its close proximity to the court complex and rest had been given into the museum function. Most of the inhabitants in the fort were moved out and church function delivered with fewer amounts of people. The entire area has been dominated by the specific administrative activity which is no more permitted to public at most of the time.



Fig 107: public spaces have been encroached by the regulations, Queen Street

The prior charter of Queen Street was more grandeur and eminence of Dutch colony which has been manifested by both existing built forms

as well as from the unique activity pattern. The implication of modern functions such as industrial and administration have occurred to develop a distinctive character in here.

### Church street at quarter 3 & 8



This street had been regard as a major among the category of secondary streets in the hierarchical order during the Dutch. They already acquired the pinnacle of the fort for their church Entrance, to the street was originally laid from the Queen Street during the Dutch and it had been undermined due to introduction of new entrance.

Fig 108: location in the fort

The atmosphere of the church square had also effecting to the image of the Dutch reformed church by the erection of few buildings during the British. The activities which arose from these building implied an atmosphere which defeated the hierarchy of Dutch reformed church. NOH building and Anglican Church were among the most attracted built components due to the existence of British way of their life.

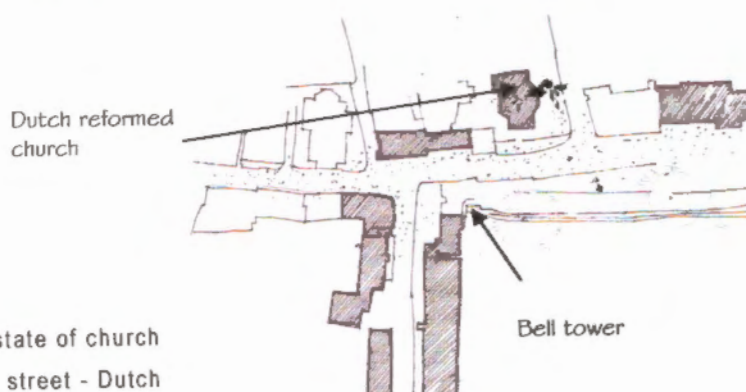


Fig 109 : earlier state of church street - Dutch

British add few relatively large buildings alongside of this particular street and most of these buildings became unoccupied soon after the

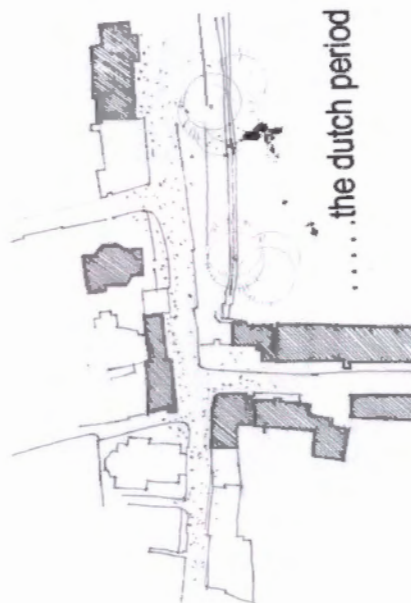
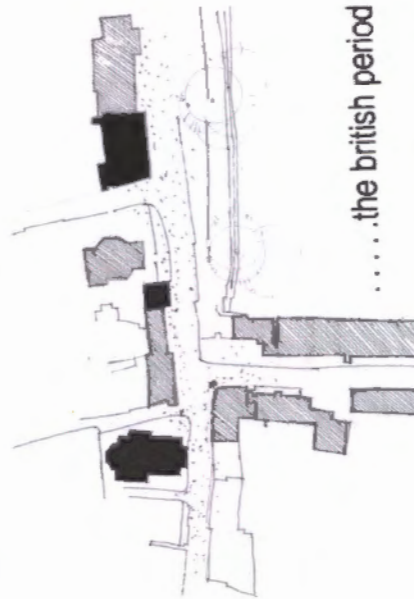
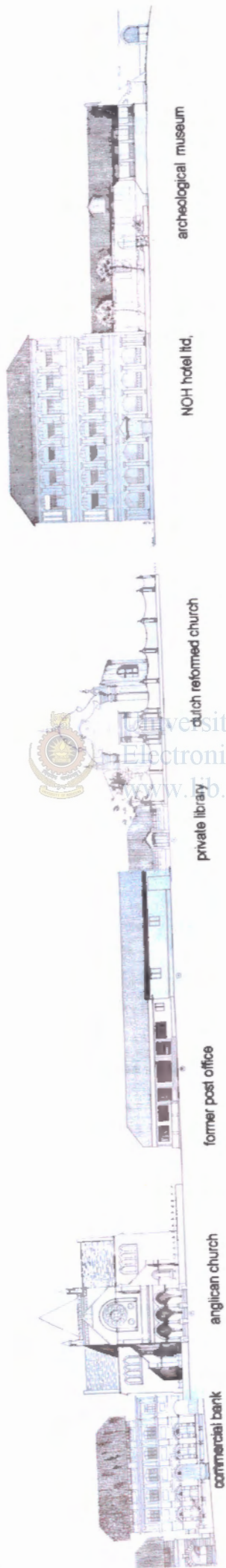


fig 109 A : changing pattern of the church street

from dutch period - british period and current function of each building



post colonial period. Buildings were given to those who wish to invest. Built components occupied with new activities which were totally contrasted to its original functions of the street. Existing commercial bank building and clan house building can be identifying as best examples for the evolution.



Fig 110: impression of Church Street during the Dutch

Church functions have been degraded due to absence of related community [Anglicans and Roman Catholics with in the fort] and activity pattern is more concentration towards to the commercial bank than the church. The functional order of church is dominating by the commercial bank due to the existence of its daily clientele. This can be further notifying by the existing traffic conjunction in front of the commercial bank.



Fig 111 impressions of Church Street - now

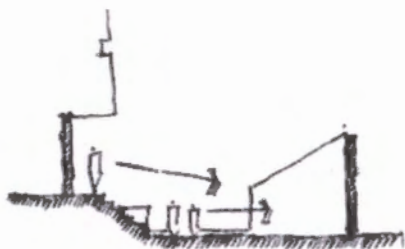


Fig 112: responsiveness of commercial bank and rest as an urban space.

The emergence of traffic sign bards, various billboards and graffiti are often highlighting close proximity to the commercial bank. Subsequently commercial bank arose as catalytic component in the context. Although one side of the commanders' house was built with a blind wall to Church Street and the responsiveness by commercial activities are presently viable through the existence of graffiti on this particular wall. The blind wall is full of posters and other graffiti and it further elaborate the character of real commercialism.



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### Church street at quarter 7 & 10

This street segment is located just after the commercial bank building. NOH hotel premises and the vistas of sea are seen at both sides, thus create attraction from visitors to this particular segment. This area had been in a dilapidated state few years ago and now the environment is fully converted into suite for the splendid life style of which was recently emerged in the fort.

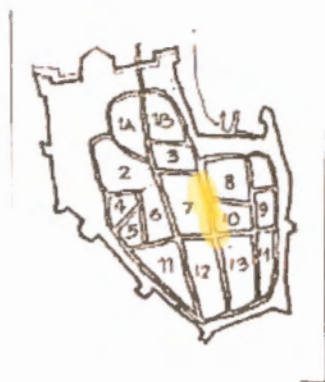


Fig 113: location in the fort

Most of these buildings were renovated and modified into few hotels, boutique shops, jewelry shops and gem shop are exist along aside of the street. The selection of these activities further involved a certain character which gains more attention from the particular group of the society. The change of the activity pattern due to main buildings [Galle Fort Hotel and Hotel Fort Printers] further encouraged others to initiate relative shops and business.

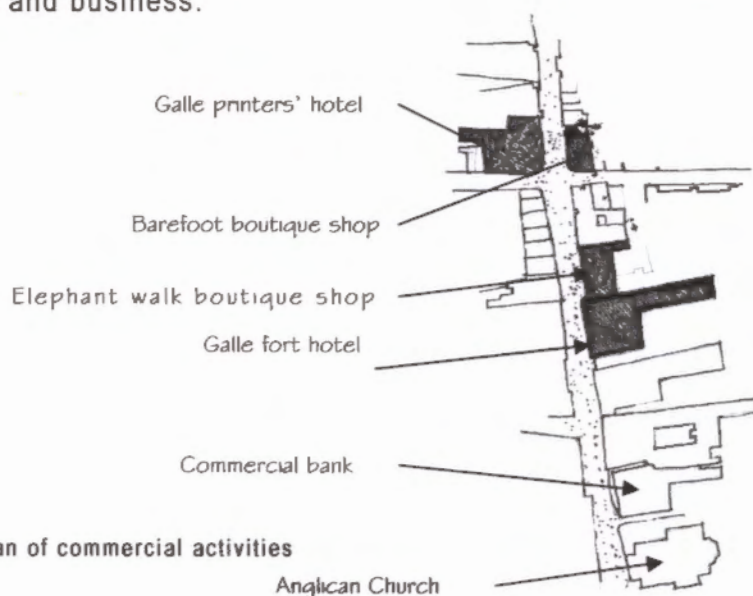


fig 114: layout plan of commercial activities



The architectural manifestations of those two hotels were at a considerable state to cite. The verandah of both building is taken into the consideration of proper maintain with out been neglected. The interaction of verandah and the street were further enhanced by few additions like dismountable louvers which provide both visual link and privacy at the same time.



Fig 115, 116: two stages of same building – galle printers hotel, before and now

Context is now at a state of considerably developed in built fabric as well as with live social layer. Following two sketches shows the consequence of evolution pattern of the built fabric and influence to rejuvenate the activity pattern of this place. The commercial character is expressing from this segment and it's rather different from the earlier segment [near commercial bank] due to the implication of specific form of activity.

### **Light House Street at quarter 6 & 7**

Street awarded its' prominence soon after the erection of new gateway by British in 1873. There were considerable amount of massive buildings emerged along aside of this street during the British. St: Anns Boys College and Southland Girls College are among few of the institutional land use category at the earlier part of the street.

The emergence of new kind of architecture had been introduced with the arrival of Sinhalese and Muslim elites in to the fort. There are few buildings at the middle of light house street which elaborate the modern influence as well as the American style of architecture. Most of

the inhabitants along this street are middle income families and it's hard to notify any interaction within this street which was unique feature in the Lyen Baan Street.



Fig 117: location in the fort



Fig 118: new definition to the built environment of fort

Most of the inhabitants were migrate to new the city centre as well as to Colombo for searching of new dimension of life pattern. The foreign investors as well as local elites had a chance to purchase those dilapidated Dutch mansions. The built environment has been gone through a new process of remodeling into its original state. The Dutch period verandahs and facades were well preserved and the atmosphere seems like scenery of the Dutch. There is another example from the city of pondicherry in India which is similarly maintain the physical structure with been considering the social entities. The built environment is more or less seems to be a well composed space with out regarding its livelihood, thus failed to become a place of its' own geographical condition.



Fig 119: scenes fro mpodycherry, India

But there was a social layer is strongly affected with these changes in the physical entity. Most of these houses which renovated recently are unoccupied through out the year except in few months. The responsive from the house with the street is minimal when comparing to its earlier state. The buildings become more or less exhibition pieces of architecture while disregarding the social sustainability of the urban component.

### Peddler Street at quarter 10 & 13



Fig 120 : location in the fort

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The atmosphere of this particular street still reminding us the way it was used during the periods of colonials. Historical reviews are manifesting the character and the relationships towards to its' name. The story behind this linguistic term reveals the attachment of the street with informality of the place. It can be still recognize the evolution pattern of the street with regards to its' original built fabric. The activity or the usage had been changed during the time but the physical component still viable in most of the places. The traces of these historical reference links with streets' prior character and define a proper window to creep into the history.

This was defined as a service street during the period of Dutch and they hardly build any large mansions along the street but when it comes to the British; they had allocated most of their commercial,



industrial land use in here for benefit of their fortified city. Then character of this street had been over powered by the informal activities.

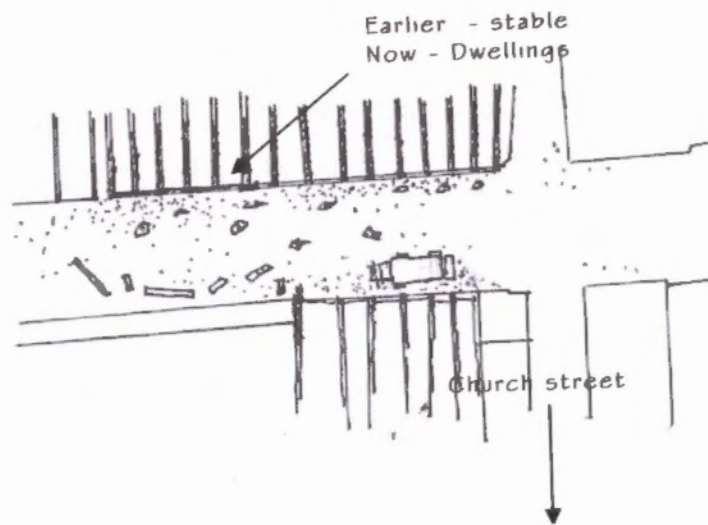


Fig 121: layout plan of Peddler Street.




Fig 122,123,124: impressions of Peddler Street

These activities are still continuing their existence from the British period to reveal its historical attachments. British built a massive stable for their horses at the dawn of twentieth century. Those shed were become unoccupied during the post colonial period and most of them had been acquired by income families. The same physical entity is continuing in the built environment with another set of functions. The expressive character of this street segment is more similar to a low income settlement which is frequent in urban areas. The original physical entities are still notable from distance and a rich variety of composition can be identified. Their way of life is also strengthening the expressive character. People are more often seen at informal

activities such as gossip, eating outside, washing cloths etc. Also most of their activities are penetrating to the street. The expressive character of this segment in Peddler Street general residential character but it is further defining by a particular way of life in a community.

#### **4:4 Concluding Remarks of the Chapter Four**

The character of each street tends to express its own story of the movement, its people and responsiveness to the Galle fort. Streets are more like series of places rather than an entity of the transportation and each place define its own character which is different to each. The overall character of Galle fort had been evaluated during last 500 years of time. The changing pattern is still going on as a natural order but physical entity was forced to be frozen due to the declaration as a world heritage by UNESCO.

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Galle fort express an image of colonialism as a whole thus the street layout is enhancing its grandeur, elegance and power of that time. The mode of expression had been changed time to time. Character of the main entrance had been changed from Dutch to British. Military and defensive character of Dutch was changed into celebration of the power of British during the time. Hieratical order of the street layout which was initiated by Dutch was also modified during the period of British. The prominence as the major was undermined into a secondary street due to the facilitation of new urban concept of British. The major street during the Dutch [Queen Street] was under mined as secondary and Light House Street arose at the first preference during the British.

The changing scenario was accelerated during the post colonial period and it was further facilitated by the open economic polices of the country. The new degree of administrative, institutional as well as

commercial functions have been encroach the spatial environment of the fort. The most activated verandah during the Portuguese as well as Dutch was subsequently overcome by the commercial activities such as exquisite dinning places, galleries to the boutique shops etc. this is mostly elaborate in the Lighthouse Street and most of the houses were taken by the foreigners and converted into there private domains where the degree of interaction is less. The same commercial activities are experiencing in a different degree in the church street. Functional hierarchical order has been seriously dismantled due to the introduction of new functions. Such as small luxury hotels, boutique shops, jewelry shops etc.

Lyan Baan Street which is still remains its original character not only in physical components but also with colorful layers of activities. Adaptations of court activities add a certain character to the beginning of the street while the original Dutch architecture is celebrating at the middle segment where museums are locating. The true ethnic character is expressing through built fabric at the end of the street where the mosque is dominated. The innate character of the peddler street is still remaining in few segments where we experiencing informal activity pattern.

The changing character of streets is tending towards to the commercialism where it is further supported and guided by the franchise economic polices of the country. Entire gall fort is in a process of changing from the defensive military entity of colonials into a diversified commercial component. The changing scenario is important as a better solution in terms of architectural conservation thus it remains a devoid in the social component.





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**Conclusion**

## Conclusion

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**What stands must falls;  
It's What moved on that stays<sup>1</sup>**

There is nothing exists forever. The scenario of the change is most significant attachment of our life. Natural environment as well as built environment subject to change as a law of the nature. But those change changes are viable as series of layers of the history. Each and every bit of the physical, social and political components of a location which noted by longitude and altitude had been changed through out time line but the location it self standing for centuries. It's important to cite the statement of Bertolt Brecht from his hand book for city dwellers in 1928 as follows; "the cities are allowed to change, you are not allowed changing".<sup>2</sup>

There are multiply approaches for the designing of urban context. It's further learnt that almost every approach should focus on the existing condition of the context and finally leads the society from the joy to wisdom as work of art. The urban setting is consisting of streets and squares where squares are further defined by buildings. As a tropical country, inhabitant are more tend to live, work and play on streets as day to day routine. Alexander, C. defined the usage of the street as; "streets should be for staying in and not just for moving through, the way they are today"<sup>3</sup>. The important of the street as a place for human interaction was discussed in chapter two and it further discussed the combination of the street character and the activity pattern too.

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<sup>1</sup> From the poem *vira siva vasana* by Basavanna [ tenth century Indian poet] -

<sup>2</sup> Anderson, S. - 1986, p - 29

<sup>3</sup> Alexander, C. - 1977, p- 590

Every building in the street has been designed for a particular activity and in most of instance in majority of buildings is allocate for one major type of activity. It's further defined as segregation of activity in a demarcated zone and this leads to give an identity to a street based on its visual, functional, experiential and environmental qualities.

This is important to cite that the existence of several cities such as Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Trincomalee and Jaffna which had been subjected to evaluate through the time line. Various influences from both inland and out side defined its shape and the form of life style which it's consists today. The existences of the layers of its fabrics allow us to discover the story of history.

Above stated cities are the products of the colonials [except Kandy] and the formation of the urban form is viable. The spontaneous development was emerged during the post independent period due to the various reasons such as lack of regulations in urban design, liberalized economic actions etc.

This dissertation is more focus on the Galle fort and its interior street layout as a case study. Richness of the social layer, variety of activities and the existence of historical layer had been taken to conceder during the selection of Galle fort as a case study among existing contemporary cities which have mentioned above. Consideration of security reasons and the allocations of new activities in the existing built environment lead to overlook Colombo and Trincomalee apart. Colombo fort is more or less towards to administrative and defined business activities for last two decades while Trincomalee concerned as a point of military at its' first preference.



The Portuguese and Dutch were able to construct the Galle fort respectively from 1568 and 1796. The alterations and the emergence of china garden in maps were encountered during the British when they acquired power from 1796 till 1948. The built environment consisting of street layout, open spaces and buildings had been changed respectively from the time to time for full fill their desires<sup>4</sup>. Galle fort was utterly build up at the end of the colonial period and had occupied by different activities during the post independent period due to the availability of more spacious built environment for almost free of charge.

The character of the street had been changed due to the change of original activity pattern which consist in the past. Verandahs and balconies which were most prominent features during the colonials is no more active and neglected as left over spaces as a storage during the present except in few Muslim houses.

The most prominent Queen Street during the Dutch era was alerted by the introduction of the new gate way during the British. The prominence of the Dutch reformed church was changed when they erected St. Annes Anglican church on the premises of the court house in few yards away from the Dutch church on the same church street<sup>5</sup>. China garden was affected in a similar way but in a overwhelmed condition. Dwellings of native Muslims were handed over to Sinhalese and then the character of the quarter was changed to the direction of trade with out erasing the original street pattern and the plot division. These changes were increased during last two decades due to the unavailability of regulations. Character of the street was drastically changed during colonial period when Galle fort was moving to different region. The place had been subjected to change due to the introduction of different activities in to the

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<sup>4</sup> refer chapter four

<sup>5</sup> refer chapter four



same physical entities. Changes impact to modify the physical properties of the streetscape and finally changed its character.

Most of the foreigners had an opportunity to acquire lands inside the fort as a result of the introduction of new audience in land acquisition in 2001. This was stated as a turning point of the evolutionary pattern of the Galle fort due to impaction in the morphology of the fort. The Galle fort is still standing out as land mark on the periphery of the southern coast line but unfortunately it is leading to so-called ghost town where the livelihood was thrashed over not by the tsunami but from the gentrification. It is important to cite that heritage is not only physical components but also in the social layer which is consisting of dress codes, folklores, cuisines and the people of it self. The conservation approaches should address not only the built environment itself alone but also the social layer and it has to be practically implemented in their proposals.

It is important to conclude this dissertation by stating a quotation from the book of "Galle as quiet as a sleep" by Nora Roberts which she has taken an advertisement from TIME magazine "Protected behind the ramparts of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch citadel, the area seems out a time warp, featuring homes with verandahs and an array of picturesque churches and mosques. There are fewer than 200 homes inside the fort, and in the past several years adventurous foreigners have purchased more than 40 of them."

The Change has been associate with human history. since time immemorial – the essential condition of everything that lives; a condition for social continuity. Even to those who experience change directly, sometimes it may barely be perceived. This is the law of the nature, changing of choices lead to change everything out there. Character, identity of the place or even the place as a whole will be changed.

Identification of characteristics is a continuing spatial journey as they evolve and change constantly overtime.

Architectural vision of this dissertation is to study the relationship between the impact of activity pattern and the character of the street which was defined by it. Careful considerations of these aspects can be used when designing meaningful streetscape and townscapes while maintaining existing characters to enhance the livelihood in the cities and create urban streetscapes places rather than mere spaces which are more physically oriented. Thus, the study will commit a space for further studies on the same location as well as on the same topic.



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